REBORN AS A

SPACE MERCENARY

I WOKE UP PILOTING THE STRONGEST STARSHIP!

MANGA

VOL. 1

ART:
Shunichi Matsui

STORY:
Ryuto

CHARACTER DESIGN:
Tetsuhiro Nabeshima

UMM, SO IF THE IMPERIAL FLEET IS HERE...

AND THE MERCENARIES ARE HERE...

C'mere.

HEY, MIMI.

Y-YES, CAPTAIN?!

HUH? WAIT.

OVER HERE? HUH?

What is it?

?

Chapter 6

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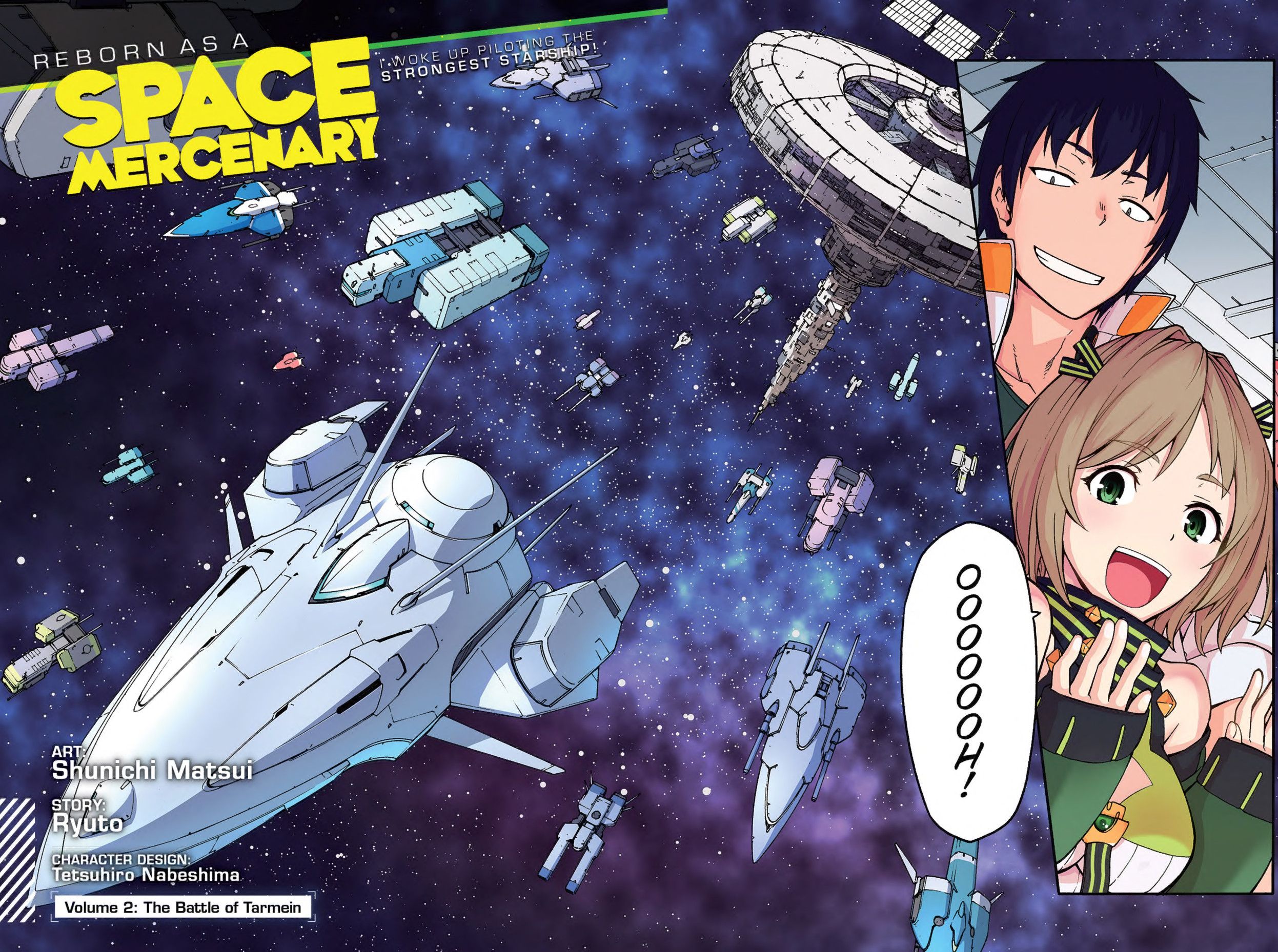
Volume 2: The Battle of Tarmein



EVERY SHIP LOOKS SO DIFFERENT.

THAT'S CUZ EVERYONE'S CUSTOMIZED 'EM TO THEIR LIKING.

BUT MANY ARE FROM THE SAME TEMPLATE.

WHAT A FANTASTIC VIEW!!

I've never seen the colony from space!

BACK IN SOL, THERE WERE CRINGEY SHIPS WITH ANIME GIRLS PLASTERED ON THE HULLS.

I never did that to mine, though.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

OOOH!!

?

THAT SHIP IS SO PRETTY!

WHATTA HUNK OF JUNK.

AN SSC-16 GALACTIC SWAN...

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

HM? WHY JUNK?

ENTIRELY WHITE!

I COULD GO ON, BUT THE BIGGEST ISSUE IS THAT, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES...

IT'S ALSO INSANELY EXPENSIVE, FORGET THE SKY-HIGH COSTS FOR REPAIR AND OUTFITTING!!

BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A TRADE-OFF BETWEEN SPEED AND HANDLING, MAKING IT SUPER HARD TO PILOT PROPERLY.

WELL, IT WAS DESIGNED FOR USE IN HIGH-SPEED BATTLES, AND ITS SPECS AREN'T ACTUALLY THAT BAD.

IT'S EVEN FASTER THAN KRISHNA.

WHAT KINDA WEIRDO WOULD *CHOOSE* TO PILOT IT?

REALLY?

IT CAN ENTER AN UNCONTROLLABLE "RAMPAGE MODE."

YIKES...

SH-SHE'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?!

RIGHT?!

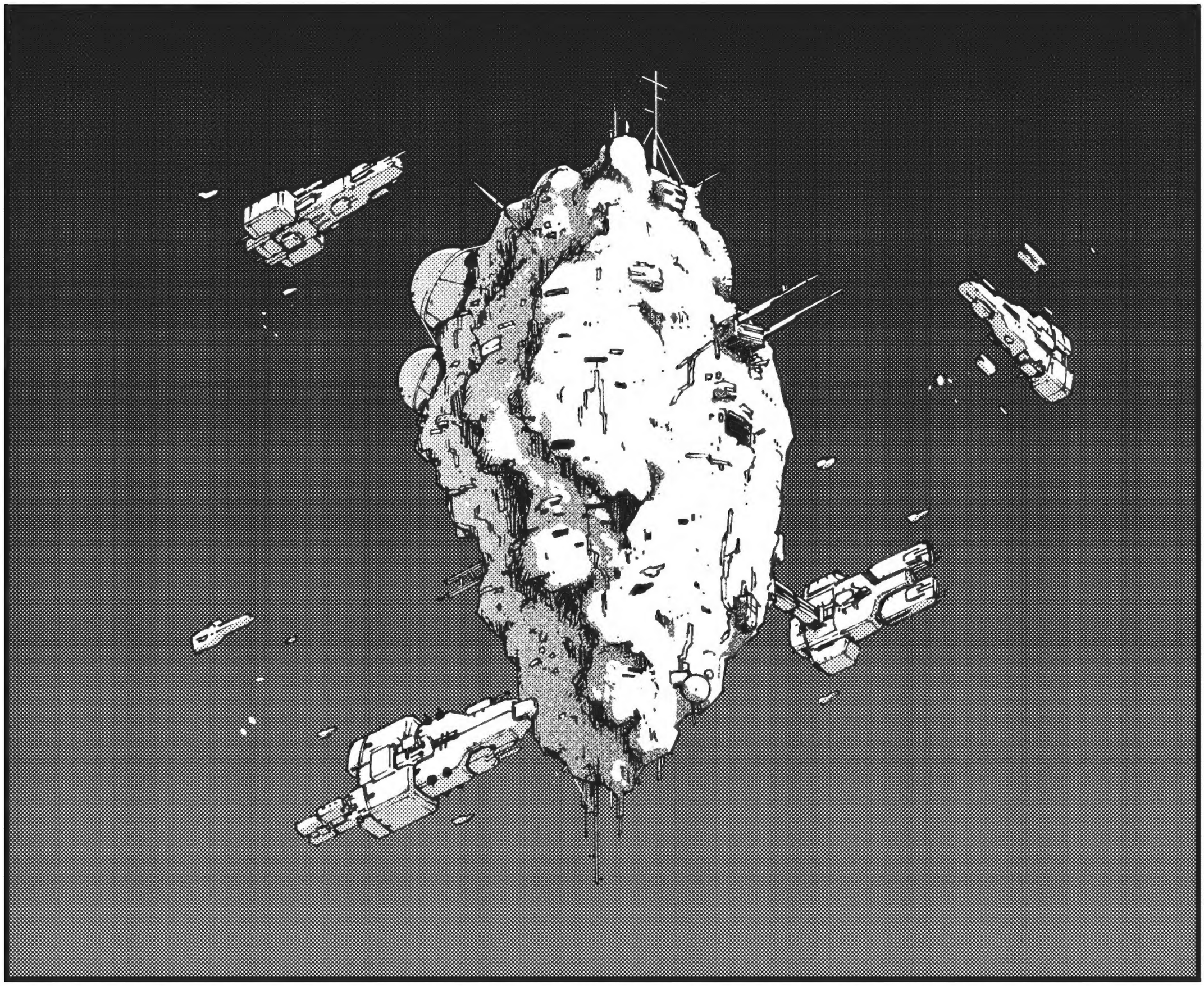
IT'S ELMA'S SHIP.

UH-OH.

UH...

WELL ...

Everything will be okay!
That's true!
SHE CALLS HERSELF A "VETERAN."
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE.



SO THAT'S THE PIRATE BASE?

I DUNNO ABOUT THIS FLEET INTEL.

I APPRECIATE HOW DETAILED THE ENEMY POSITIONS ARE, BUT...

HMM...

KINDA CHOCKFUL OF ENEMIES?

IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE THE POSITIONS I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED...

I GET THE FEELING IT'S INTENTIONAL.

NOPE, ALL GOOD!

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

CAPTAIN?

?

HEADS UP, IT'S STARTING SOON.

110 GLOW

PZOOM
EEK!

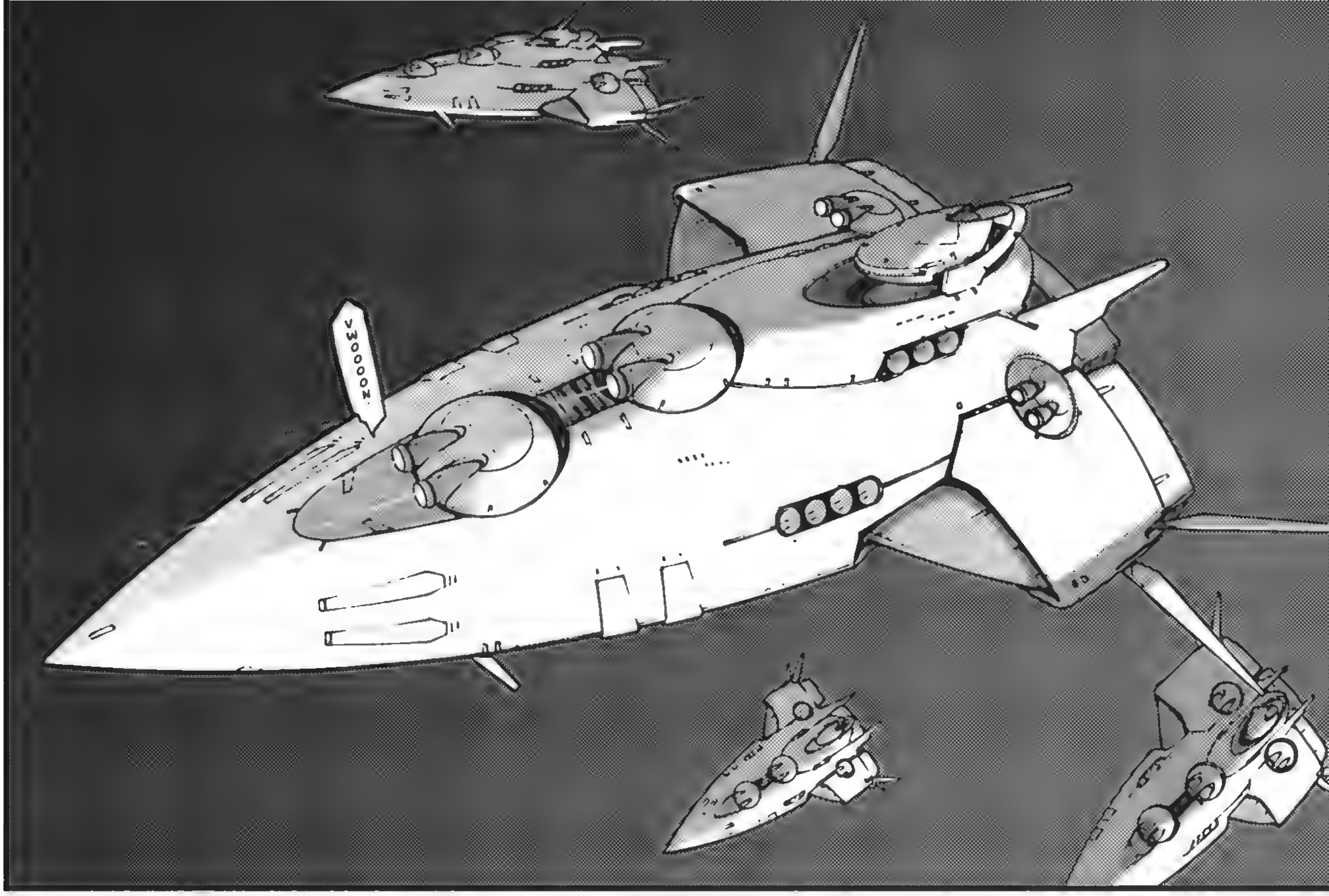
KABOOM

WHOA! AWE-SOME!

BOOM

poff

BOOM



WITH THAT RANGE AND POWER, NOT EVEN *KRISHNA* WOULD STAND A CHANCE.

WOW...

INCOMING MESSAGE!!

HM?

COMM RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED! BATTLE STATIONS!!

SMALL ENEMY CRAFT ARE ATTEMPTING ESCAPE!!

POKE

END OF MES-SAG-ES.

MIMI, BUCKLE UP! WE'RE GOIN' IN!

Y-YES, CAPTAIN!

BWOOOOOSH

HOLD ON TIGHT! IT'S GONNA GET BUMPY!!

WHOOMPH

ENEMY SHIPS APPROACHING, STRAIGHT AHEAD!!

TWO GENERIC AND TWO SMALL CRAFT!

OHO?

A HEAD-ON ASSAULT AGAINST *KRISHNA*? PFT.

TYOOM

GA-CHUNK

DOOM

DOOM

VSHT

BOOM

BAM

BAM

BAM

THOOM

HM?

BWOOM

PFFFT!

YOU REALLY EXPECT TO OUTRUN ME...

WE GOT SOME RUN-NERS!

Ka-chunk

Ka-thunk

IN SOME MODDED GENERICS?!!

PSH

BSH

I...

WEEEE

BIM

TYOOM

PHEW!

?

?

Shit!! There's too many of 'em!!

This is *Quiet*!! Anyone there?!!

RIGHT NEARBY, PERFECT.

.....

ONE OF THE MERC SHIPS HAS BEEN ENGAGED BY FIVE ENEMY CRAFT!!

MIMI?!

LET'S GO!

Y-YES, CAPTAIN!!

Oh man!! I owe ya one!!

WHOOOOOOOOOOSH

This is *Krishna!* We'll cover you!

GA-THUNK

PSH

BSH

WOOOOOOOOOOSH

BS-SH-T

BOOOOM!!!

GUIDED MISSILES? THAT'S ANNOYING...

THOOM

TAKE THIS!!

WOOSH

FWOOM

BLAM

CHNK

KA-CHUNK

Phew!

Thanks for the support!

KABOOM

BOOSH

You got the rest of 'em? Nice work!

Five at once woulda been the end of me.

THERE ARE THREE MIDSIZE CRAFT NEAR THE FLEET CAUSING A LOT OF TROUBLE.

MIMI, HOW'RE THINGS LOOKING?

UMM, OVERALL, THE FLEET IS WINNING.

BUT...

I gotta resupply.

Stay safe out there.

Right, see ya later.

Same to you.

MIDSIZE CRAFT, HUH?

LOOKS LIKE A REMODELED CIVILIAN TRANSPORT SHIP.

ALL RIGHT!! WE'RE GONNA JOIN IN.

EYES ON THE RADAR AND EARS OUT FOR TRANSMIS-SIONS.

GLANCE

YES, CAPTAIN!

KRISHNA'S SHIELDS SHOULD WITHSTAND THEM, BUT...

BUT I CAN'T OVERLOOK THE MIDSIZE PULSE LASERS OR THE ANTI-PROXIMITY TURRETS.

MIMI.

O-OKAY... WHAT'S THE PLAN?

IT'S GONNA GET A BIT COLD, BUT HANG IN THERE.

I'M NOT GONNA FIGHT 'EM HEAD-ON IF I CAN HELP IT.

ERR... WOULDN'T THEY SEE US COMING?

FROM THERE, WE'LL MOVE INTO THE PIRATES' BLIND SPOT.

I'LL DROP THE GENERATOR OUTPUT TO MINIMUM AND HIDE IN THE DEBRIS.

IN BATTLE, YOU TRACK SHIPS USING THERMAL SENSORS.

THE BATTLESPACE IS FILLED WITH DEBRIS, WHICH'LL FOUL UP STANDARD RADAR.

WE'RE GONNA USE THAT AGAINST 'EM.

I've never heard of this tactic...

BACK IN SOL, THEY CALLED THIS TRICK "THERMAL STEALTH."

GLAD I CAN STILL USE IT HERE.

Not good... Fuel 'n' ammo ain't gonna last much longer!

This is lookin' real bad!!

Huh?!

What's up?!

Tch!

Those midsizers are really throwin' a wrench in things!

The heck... is that?!

KABOOM!

KABOOM!

What's that ship?!

Where'd it even come from?!

Hey! No stealin' my share!

Was that a girl?!

Thanks! We were in a tough spot there!

THIS IS *KRISHNA!*

WE'RE HERE TO BACK YOU UP!!

THEY KNOW THE BATTLE'S NOT OVER, RIGHT...?

Cute voice equals cute face!!

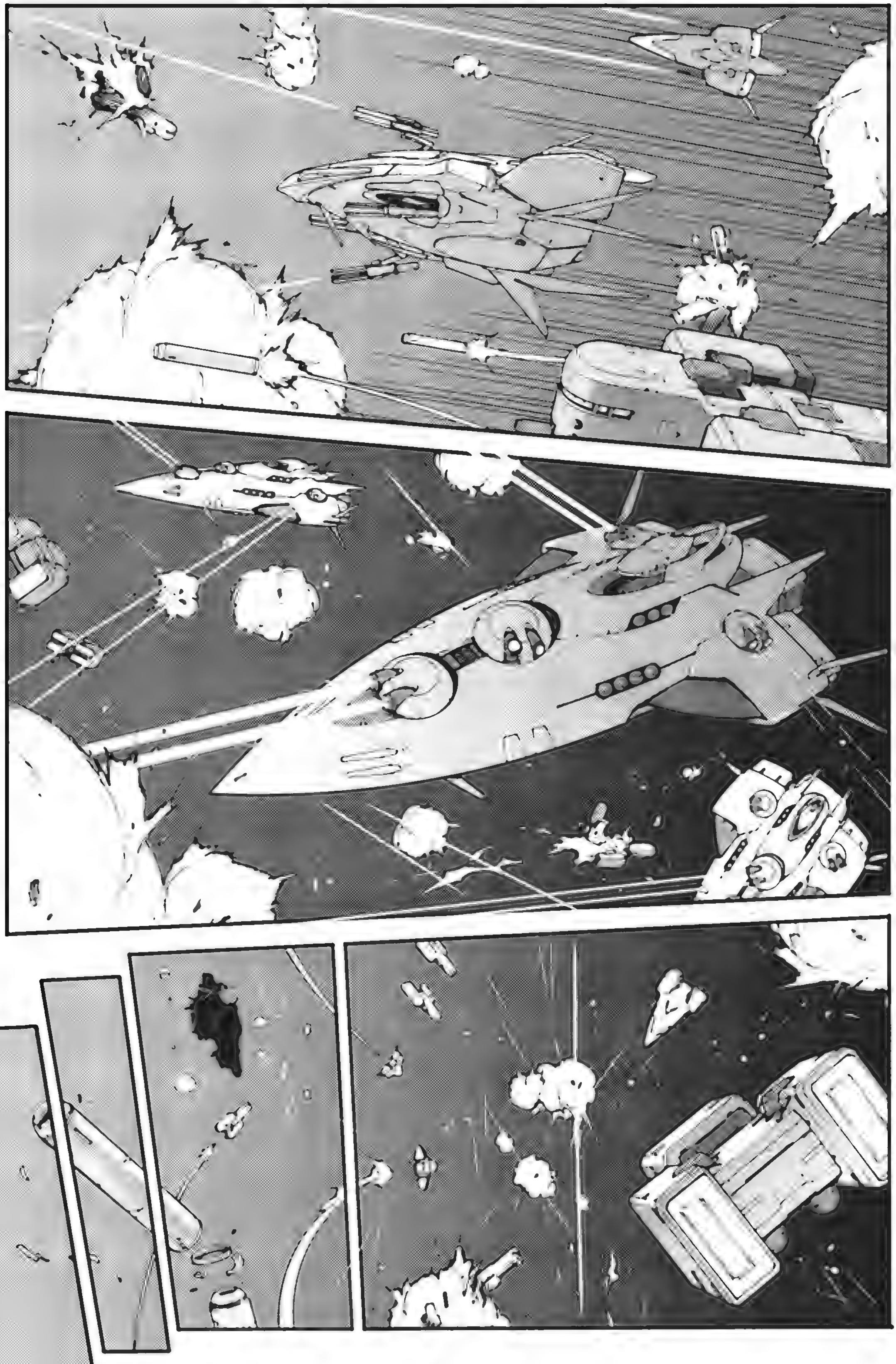
I'm tellin' ya!

How would ya know just from her voice?

Your operator's a cute girl?!

LET'S PUSH 'EM TOGETHER!!

WITH THE MIDSIZE SHIPS GONE, THE OTHERS ARE GONNA TRY 'N' DIP!!



Things really turned around when Four Arms showed up!

Yeah, way to go, Four Arms!

AREA CLEARED!!

THAT'S ONE SECTOR DONE.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A NICKNAME FOR KRISHNA? TALK ABOUT LAME...

"FOUR ARMS"?

O-OH!! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

See?!! That voice is adorable!! She's gotta be adorable!!

Thanks to you too, Ms. Operator!!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT'S CHARMING.

Wha--?! I-I-I--!

I ain't no virgin!!

Aha ha...

And ya wonder why you're still a virgin.

You're still goin' on about that?

?

beeeep

beeeep

RIGHT, LET'S HEAD FOR THE NEXT SECTOR.

GUESS SOME JOKES ARE UNIVERSAL.

NOOOO!!

EEK!

?!

WHICH...?

IT WAS A TRANSMISSION FROM THAT SHIP!

THE HECK WAS THAT?

ELMA'S SHIP, YES?

CORRECT...

GALACTIC SWAN...

OH...

WELL, ONE THING COMES TO MIND...

I REALLY HOPE IT'S NOT...

WHAT COULD BE WRONG?

SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S IN TROUBLE.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY DAMN SHIP?!!

SLAM

SLAM

WH-WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!

WHY?!!

WHY?!

WOOO

NOOO!!!

WHOA?!

WHAT THE HECK?!

AND WE'RE NOT FAST ENOUGH TO INTERCEPT.

WELL, ONCE IT'S RAMPAGING, IT WON'T STOP.

It's uncon-trollable.

UH-UM... WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?

OH NO. THAT COURSE IS GONNA TAKE HER...

SO, SHE WON'T DIE OR ANYTH-- OH.

BUT THE COCKPIT ON THAT THING IS SUPER STURDY.

IT'LL EVEN-TUALLY EXPLODE.

WHAT?!

Chapter 7

GYAAH!

TURN!

TUUURN!

VWOOOOOOOOOOM

BWOOM!

OHMIGOOOOSH!!

UH...

BUT WHAT...

L-LIKE I SAID, STURDY COCKPIT...

TH-THAT'S ONE OF THE FLEET'S BATTLESHIPS...!

What was that?

FWOOM

FWOOOOM

ABOUT THE DAMAGE TO THE FLEET SHIP?

THE BILL FOR THAT'S GONNA BE ROUGH.

WHAT WAS THAT?

ERR, IT APPEARS A MERCENARY SHIP HAS CRASHED INTO ONE OF OURS.

WILL IT AFFECT THE BATTLE PLAN?

OKAY. GOOD.

BUT...

THERE ARE NO IMPEDIMENTS TO THE BATTLE PLAN.

THE MERCENARY SHIP IS INOPERABLE. THE DAMAGE TO OUR SHIP IS INSIGNIFICANT. NO CASUALTIES REPORTED.

.....

ON ANOTH-ER NOTE...

I'M CURIOUS ABOUT *THIS* SHIP, LIEUTENANT.

ITS SCORE STANDS OUT.

Sending you the data now.

MAKE SURE YOU BILL THEM FOR THE DAMAGES.

YES, MA'AM!

HE'S BRONZE RANK, BUT HIS SCORE IS PLATINUM LEVEL!

IT'S HIM...

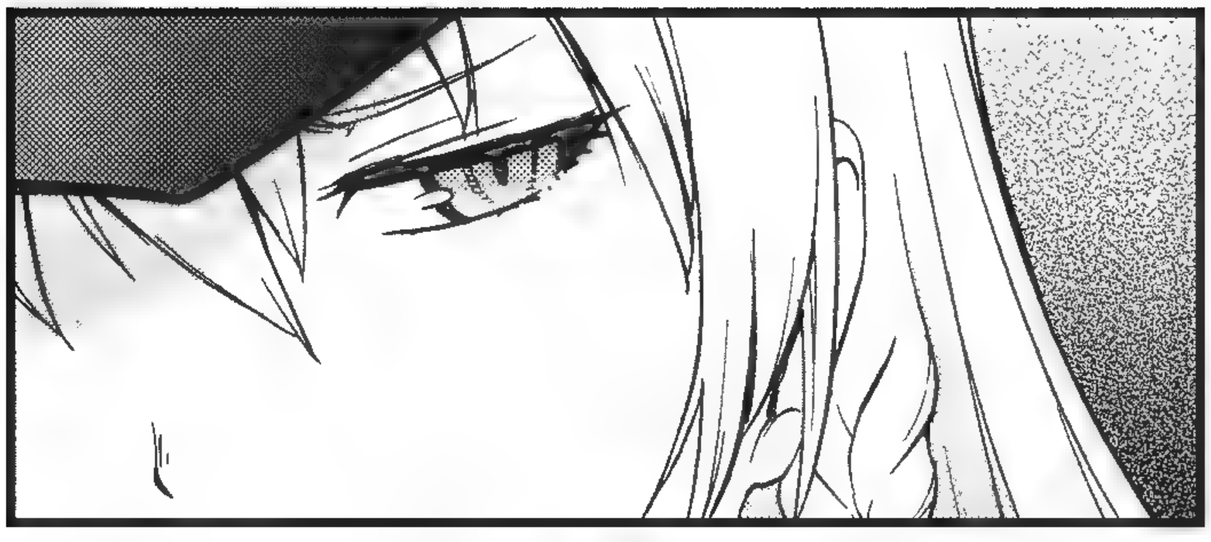
F I S H

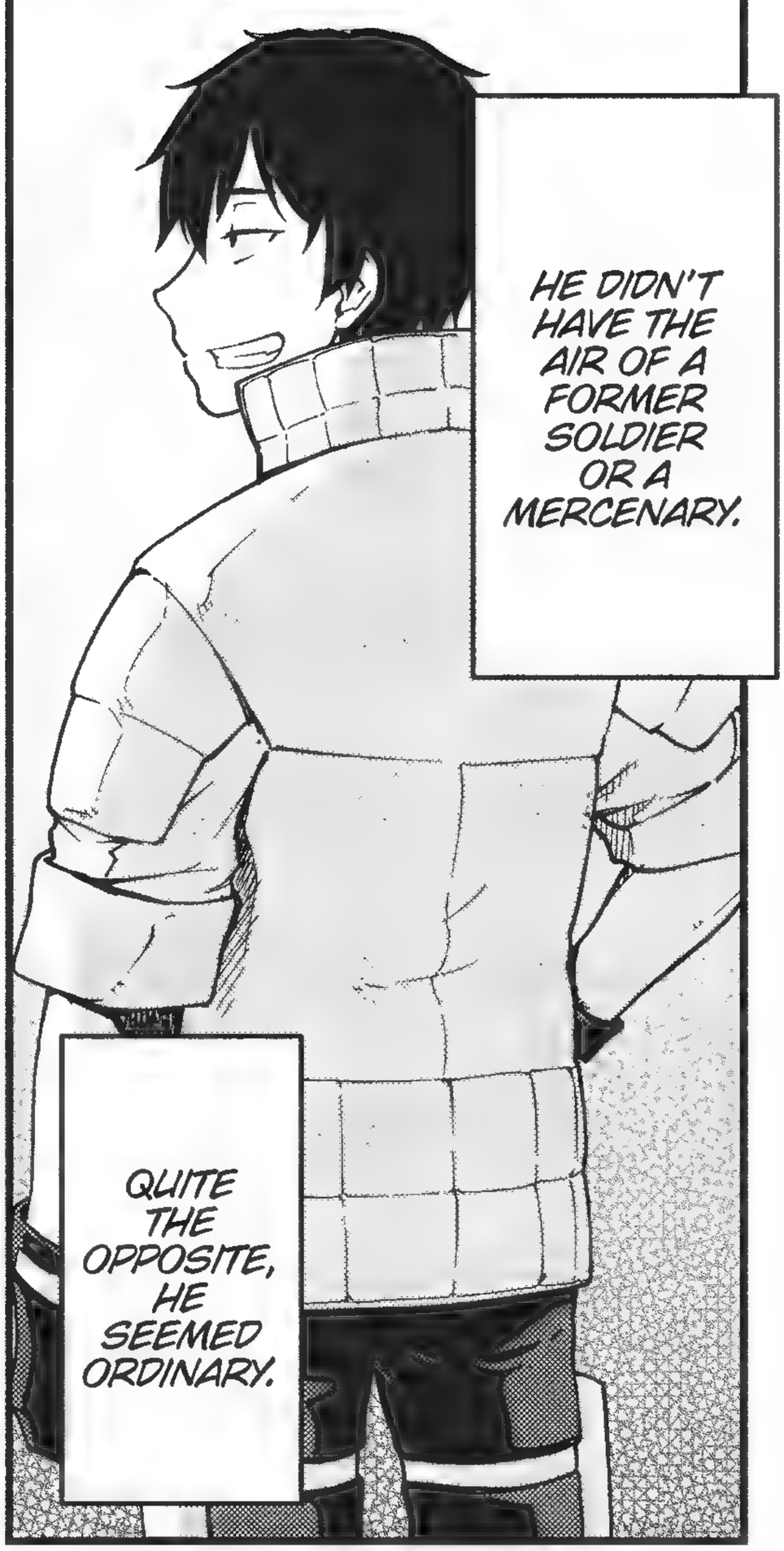
WHIP

INDEED...

EVEN ACCOUNTING FOR THE POWER OF HIS SHIP, HIS SCORE IS ABNORMAL.

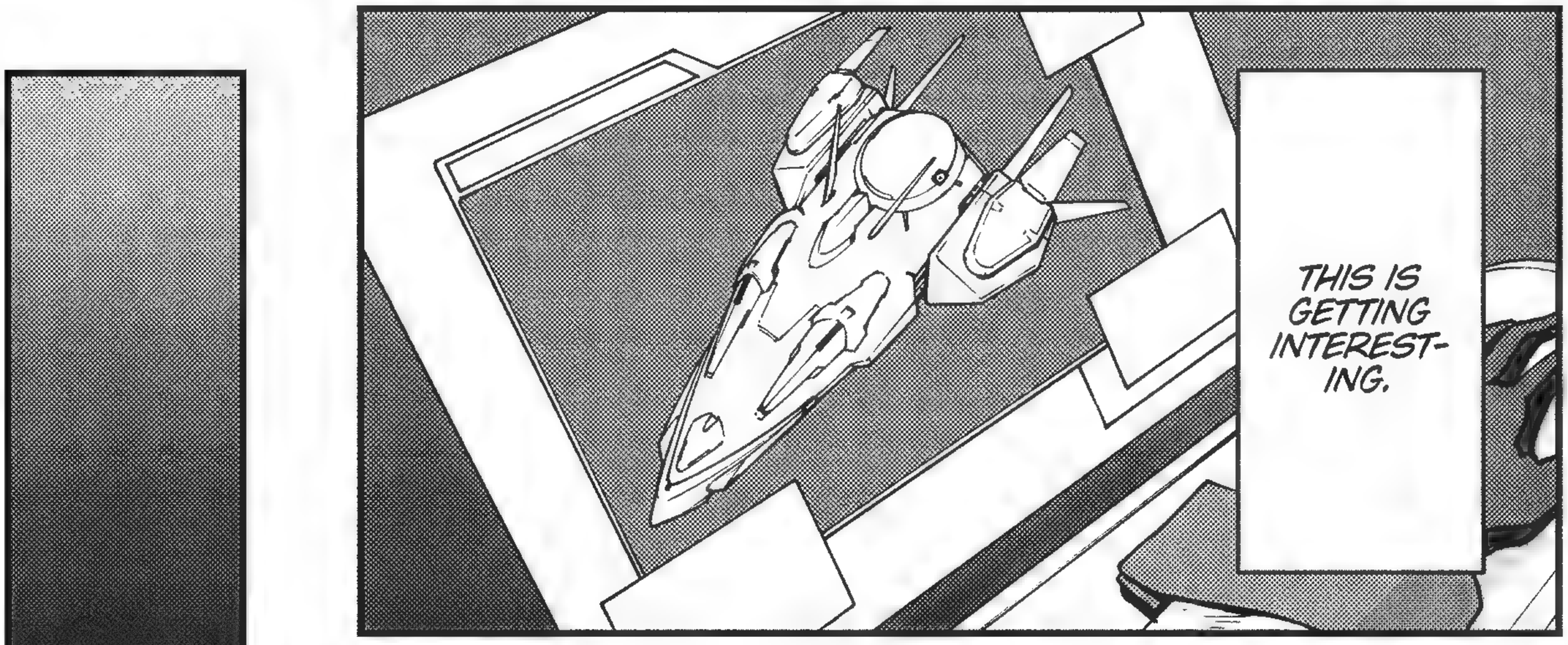
WHEN I FIRST MET HIM...




HE DIDN'T HAVE THE AIR OF A FORMER SOLDIER OR A MERCENARY.
QUITE THE OPPOSITE, HE SEEMED ORDINARY.

KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
COLLECT AS MUCH DATA AS YOU CAN.
YES, MA'AM!

Heh...


THIS IS GETTING INTEREST-ING.

NOW THE REAL FUN BEGINS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SHF

SHF

INCOMING TRANS-MISSION.

END OF MES-SAGE!

"FULFILLMENT OF ALL OPERATION CONDITIONS: CONFIRMED. THE OPERATION IS CONCLUDED."

CLUNK

BUT THE GOODS AND DEBRIS FROM THE PIRATES ARE JUST AS VALUABLE.

WE'LL GET OUR REWARD!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FIRE AWAY.

VRRRRT!!

DON'T FORGET THIS PART OF THE PROCESS, OKAY?

GOT IT!

STILL, YOU SEEM VERY EXCITED.

I'LL TAKE THIS OVER A DEADLY BATTLE ANY DAY.

BEEEEEP!

ERR, I ALREADY HAVE A QUESTION.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

IT SAYS "UNREC-OGNIZED ITEM"...

HUH?

IS THAT...

A SINGING CRYSTAL?

Now that's rare...

A SINGING WHAT? WHAT IS THAT?

MMM, HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS... IT'S A DANGEROUS ITEM.

LET'S TAKE IT WITH US.

OH, THEN WE SHOULD LEAVE IT BE.

.....

SO, KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW.

SO LONG AS WE AVOID BIG HITS, IT'LL BE FINE.

Probably.

HECK, IT'LL BE A PAIN IF ANYONE FINDS US AT ALL.

WHAT?!

I THOUGHT IT WAS DANGER-OUS!

WHEN SHATTERED, IT SUMMONS A HUGE NUMBER OF CRYSTAL BEINGS.

IT'S A UNIQUE ITEM, FOUND IN SOL.

THE SINGING CRYSTAL.

IF USED CORRECTLY...

IT'LL COME IN HANDY ONE DAY.

BACK IN SOL, IT'S USED TO LAUNCH RAIDS.

SO, CAPTAIN, WHAT'S NEXT?

BWAHN

BWAHN

ERR, I MEANT MORE LIKE...

UHHH, WE'LL JUST TAKE A BREAK.

I'm pretty tired.

WHADDYA MEAN?

WHERE WILL WE GO, AND DO?

Our next "goal."

IS TO ONE DAY BUY A DETACHED HOUSE WITH A YARD ON SOME PLANET.

OHHH.

RIGHT, I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET.

MY GOAL...

УЕДИ!

SPLENDID!

RIGHT?

ERR...

HOW ABOUT YOU? WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

JUST LIVING WITHOUT DIRECTION WOULD BE PRETTY ROUGH.

ANYTHING YOU WANT! SPACE IS LIMITLESS!

FWSH

I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

GRRRRRRRRRRR...

GO ON, LET'S HEAR IT.

HMMMM...

HMMMM...

HMMMM...

GRR...

HMMMM...

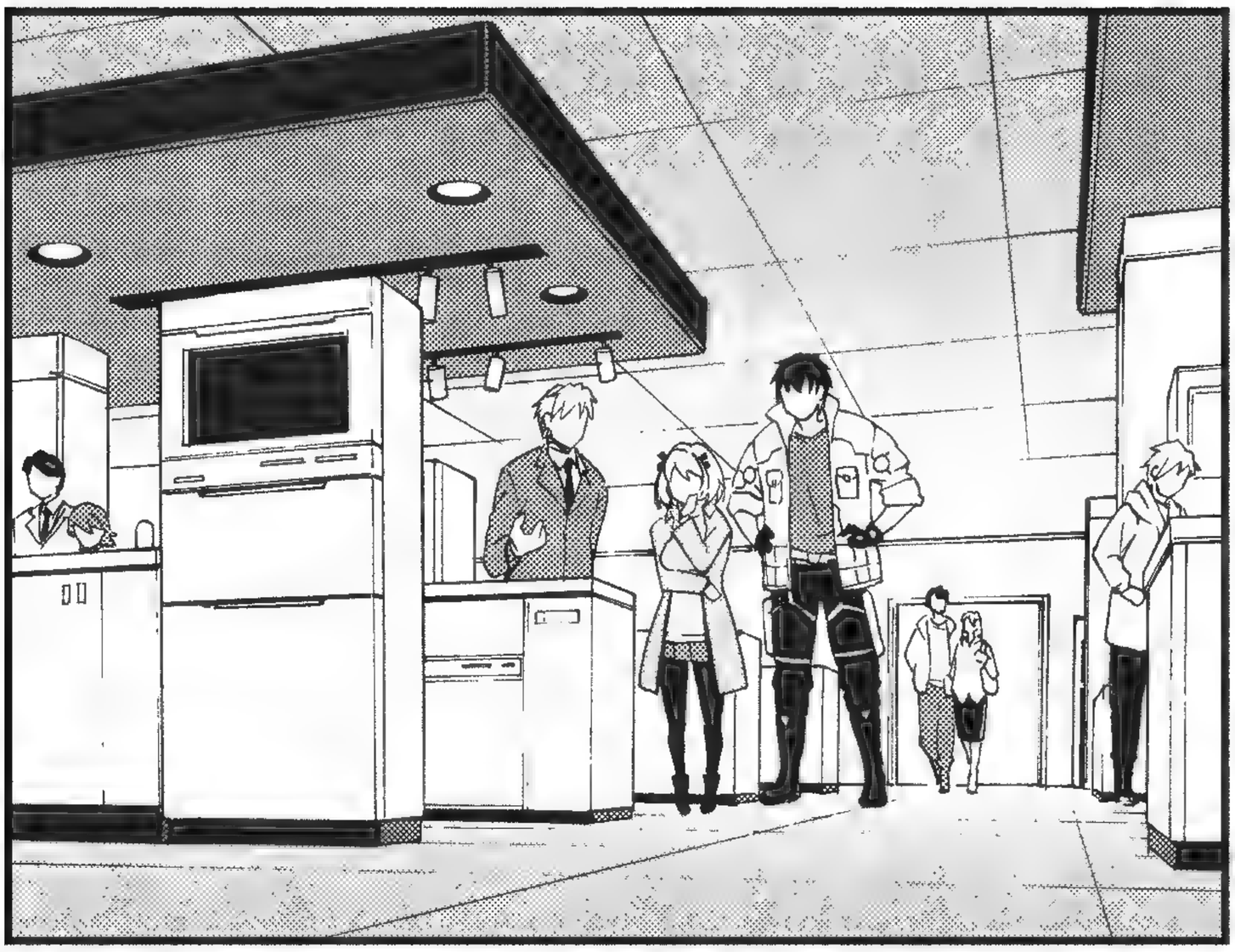
かあああああ
bLuuuuush
HRN...
HNNN-NN...
HUH?
WAS THAT...
HN...
LET'S FIND SOME GOOD GRUB ONCE WE'RE DONE HERE.
HA HA HA!
NOOO! WHY?!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN ON EDGE THAT WHOLE BATTLE!
?
YEAH, I JUST SAID--
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
CAPTAIN, I WANT TO EAT.
HM?

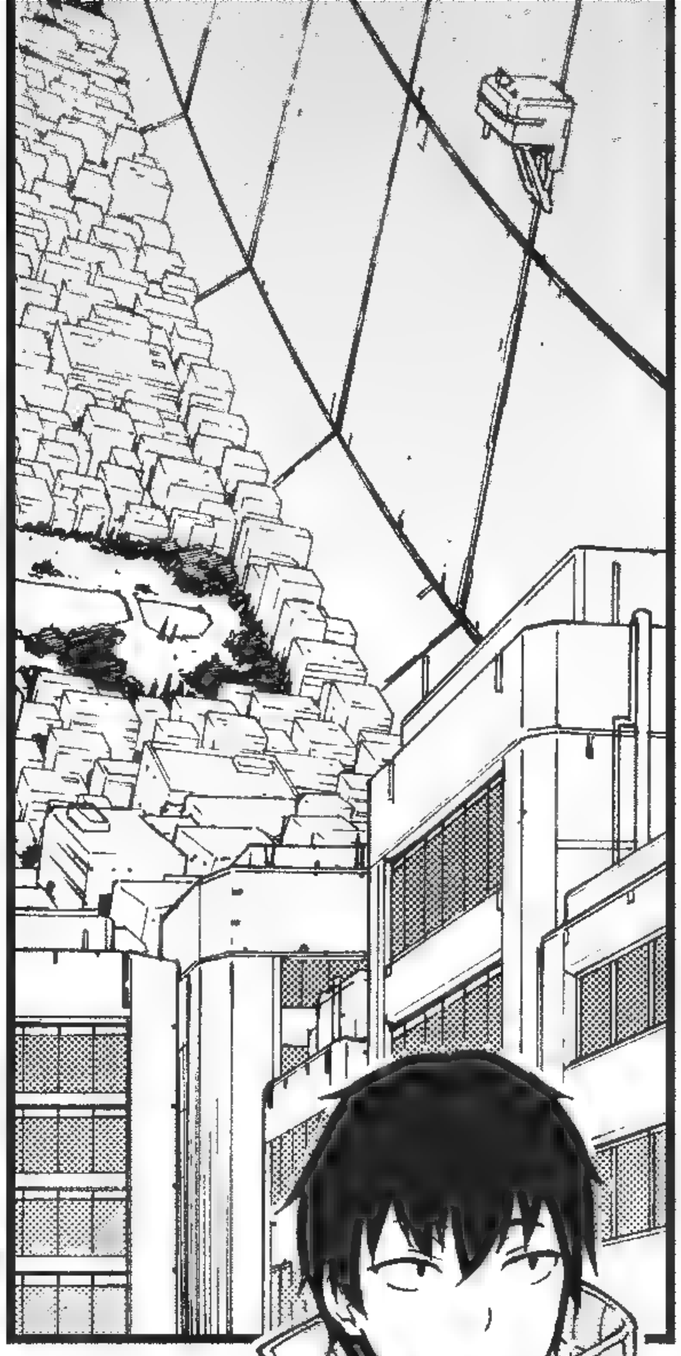
DUH-DUN!

AND SAMPLE EVERY CUISINE!

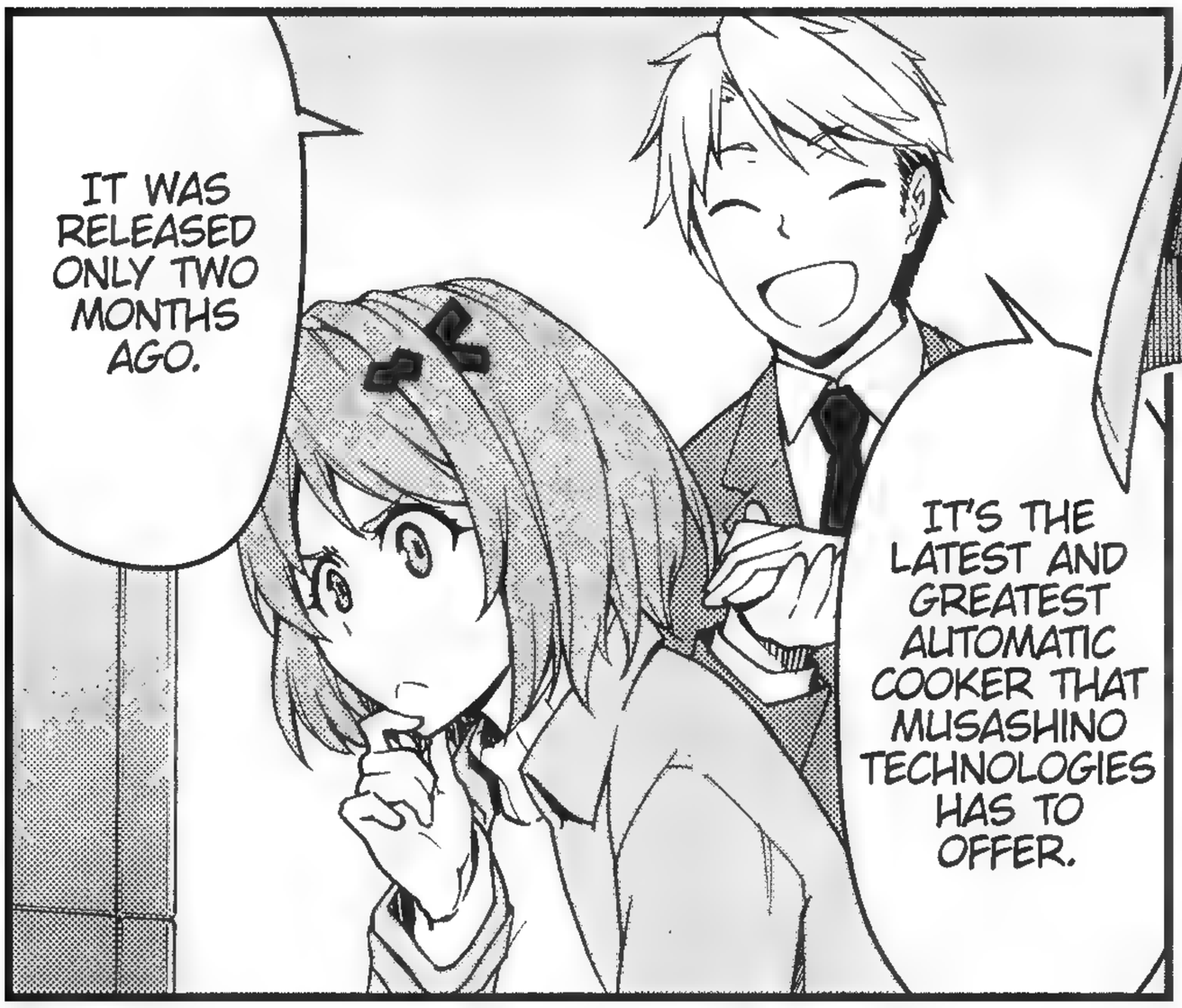
I WANT TO GO TO THE EDGE OF SPACE!

I WANT TO TRY EVERY FOOD IN THE UNIVERSE WITH YOU, CAPTAIN!





.....
THIS RIGHT HERE IS THE STEEL CHEF FIVE!


IT WAS RELEASED ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO.
IT'S THE LATEST AND GREATEST AUTOMATIC COOKER THAT MUSASHINO TECHNOLOGIES HAS TO OFFER.

I'D PLANNED TO REMODEL KRISHNA TO ACCOMMO-DATE MIMI ALREADY.

SO THIS IS GOOD TIMING.

Tea...?

Busy.

AND CONCLUDED THAT WE NEEDED A TOP-OF-THE-LINE AUTO-COOKER.

...

I see, I see!

SHE GOT RIGHT TO WORK.

DO WE REALLY NEED "THE LATEST AND GREATEST"?

!!!

.....

ELECTRICAL USAGE IS ON THE HIGH END.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS AND UPKEEP LIKE?

THAT'S WHY WE'RE AT THIS SPACESHIP-APPLIANCE DEALER.

BUT THAT'S DUE TO NANOTECH THAT AUTOMATICALLY PERFORMS THE UPKEEP.

No added work for you!!

LOAD IN A CARTRIDGE AND IT'LL DO THE REST.

AN AUTO-COOKER IS LIKE A 3D PRINTER FOR FOOD.

SEASONINGS ARE STANDARD ACROSS ALL MACHINES, TOO.

THE ONE WE HAVE WORKS FINE AND USES THE SAME CARTRIDGES.

WOULD YOU LIKE A SAMPLE?

... THEN...

CAN'T BE THAT DIFFERENT...

HOLY CRAP...

WE'RE VERY PROUD OF IT!

That's tasty!

THE ONE WE HAVE SUCKS!!

BUT IT'S AWFULLY EXPENSIVE...

I HAVE A LIMITED TIME OFFER, JUST FOR YOU!

PUMPED

WE'LL TAKE IT!

Mercenary Guild

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE ENDED UP UPGRADING ALL OUR APPLIANCES...

I KINDA FEEL LIKE WE GOT ROOKED, BUT THEY WERE NECESSARY EXPENSES.

Kudos to that salesman.

Thank you!!

?

YA GOT SOME NERVE, BRINGIN' YER WOMAN ALONG...

PAT

BESIDES, WE SCORED IN THE BATTLE, SO THE WALLET'S STILL FAT.

YA TRYIN' TO PISS ME OFF?

WHAT?!

THE HELL D'YA MEAN, A MANA--

I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH THE MANAGER.

.....

!! THWACK!

GERRRR?!

Bfft!

APOLOGIES FOR THAT.

THUMP

SCOOT

Gack!

MANAGER, AT YOUR SERVICE.

CHAK

SHFFFFF

SHFFFF

UH... YEAH.

YOU'RE HERE TO CLAIM YOUR REWARD, YES?

FLUMP

THEY ASSIGNED ME A BUNCH OF CHUMPS, SO I DIDN'T EARN AS MUCH AS I HOPED.

MMM, HONESTLY, IT WASN'T TOO CHALLENGING.

YOU PLAYED A LARGE ROLE IN THE BATTLE.

WELL, OUR STAR SYSTEM IS CONSERVATIVE, AFTER ALL.

SOMEONE WITH YOUR SKILLS CAN FIND MORE REWARDING WORK IN ANOTHER SYSTEM.

YOU COULD ALSO PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN FLEET.

I THINK YOU'D HAVE PEOPLE FLOCKING TO JOIN.

HMM.

I HADN'T PLANNED ON ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

BESIDES, WE'VE GOT OUR LIVES TO LIVE.

.....

CAPTAIN HIRO IS...

OUR RELATION-SHIP...? A LONG STORY.

ERM, FORGIVE MY PRYING, BUT WHAT *IS* YOUR RELATIONSHIP...?

MY MASTER!

EEK!

BEAM!

VRRTTTTTTTCH!

?

THERE'S A LOT TO UNPACK HERE!

W-WAIT A SEC!

RUHHHUMBLE...

AND THAT MEANS...?

Phew!

YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR... FOR NOW.

I SEE.

IT SURE SOUNDS FUN.

MAYBE I OUGHT TO QUIT THIS JOB AND JOIN YOUR CREW.

A STORY WORTHY OF A FOURTH-WALL BREAK.

YOU REALLY THINK SO?

CAN'T YOU FIND A USE FOR ME?

DESPITE THE GLASSES, I KNOW A THING OR TWO.

YOU...

YO...

Y...

AWW, I WAS JUST JOKING!

Hissss!

Whoa!

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED!

GLOMP!

OH...

ANY IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO ELMA?

OH, BY THE WAY...

Whoa there.

WAS SHE BADLY INJURED...?!

THE ELMA?

FWSH

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY IT'S RATHER STEEP.

BIP

HOWEVER, THE FLEET'S REPAIR BILL...

NOTHING TOO SEVERE, NO.

SO WHERE IS SHE?

TRAVELING, TRYING TO RAISE FUNDS.

CAN'T IMAGINE THEY'D TAKE IT EASY ON HER.

EVEN WITH ONLY MINOR DAMAGE, IT'S STILL AN IMPERIAL SHIP.

NOT MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE WILLING TO BAIL OUT A MERCENARY WITH A SCRAPPED SHIP AND NO INCOME.

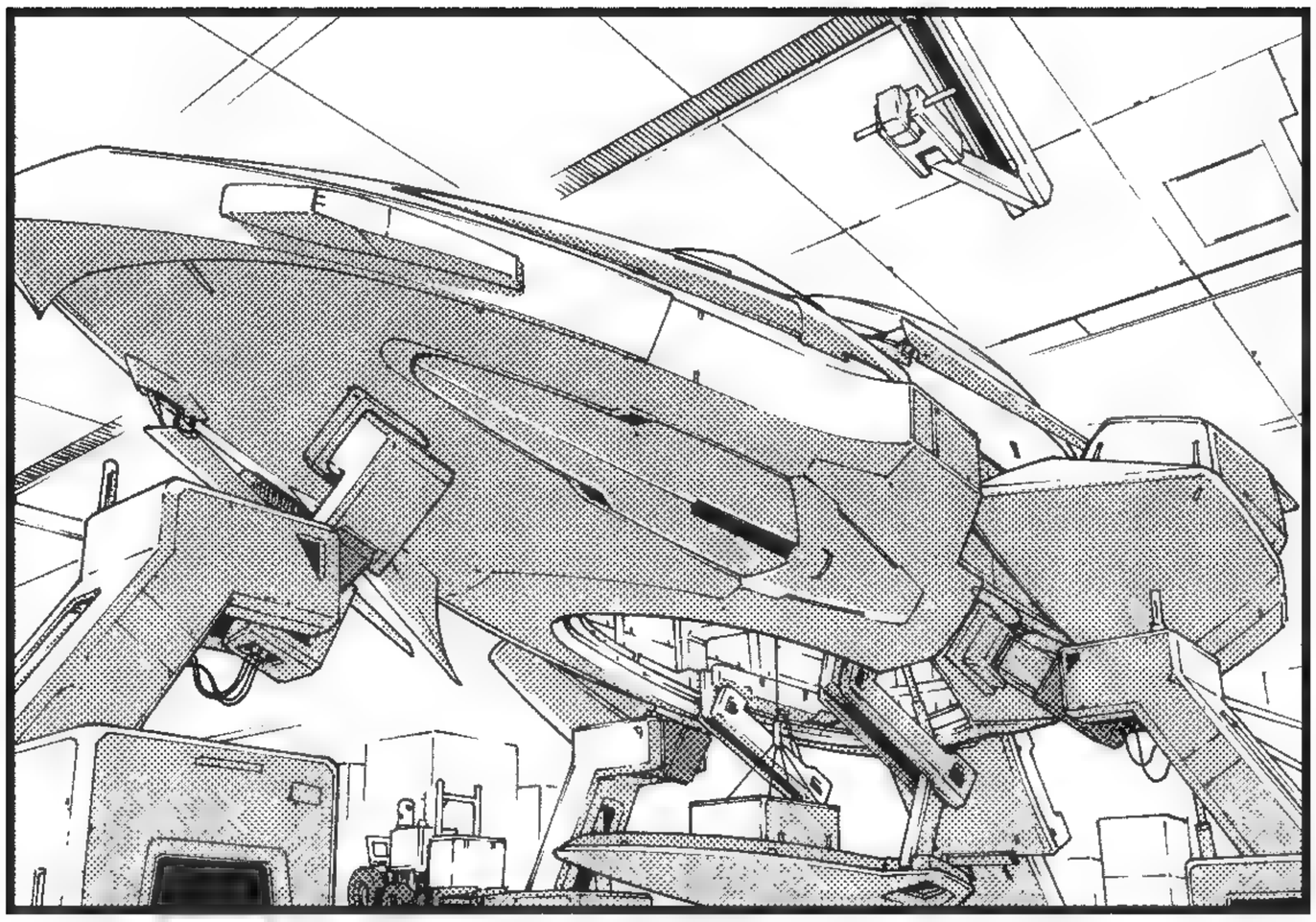
ANY HOPE FOR HER?

SHAKE

SHAKE

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HER?

WORST-CASE SCENARIO...



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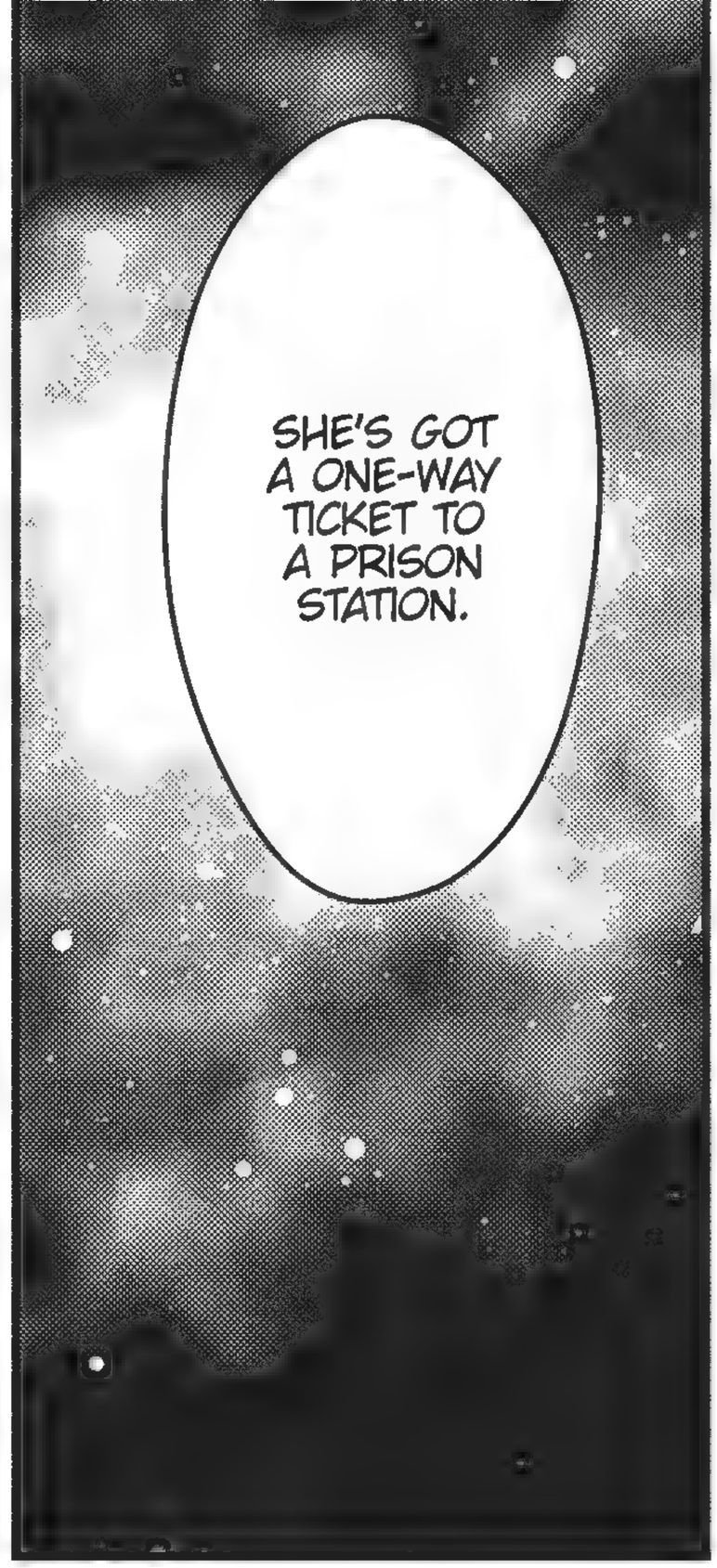

SHE'S GOT A ONE-WAY TICKET TO A PRISON STATION.

THIS IS SO GOOD!
EVERY MEAL HAS BEEN SPOT-ON.
SPLURGING ON THAT AUTO-COOKER WAS SO WORTH IT!
I KNEW AS MUCH FROM THE SAMPLE, BUT DAMN...

DO...

MIMI?

DON'TCHA THINK...

.....

MAN, WHAT A GREAT PURCHASE!

ELMA'S STILL EATING PROPERLY...?

DO YOU THINK...

STILL, IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING, SHE'LL NEVER CHEER UP.

.....

BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE ELMA IS, MUCH LESS ANY WAY OF CONTACTING HER.

.....

SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE WE GOT BACK.

I can't blame her, though...

……

HNNNNN!

WELL, WE'VE BEEN COOPED UP IN THE SHIP A LOT RECENTLY.

HM?

CAPTAIN HIRO, WHY ARE WE GOING INTO TOWN?

Do you still have errands?

GOTTA GET SOME FRESH AIR, Y'KNOW?

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN MIND, SO YOU LEAD THE WAY.

WE CAN GO SHOPPING, OR JUST LOOK AROUND... OH, I KNOW!

HOW 'BOUT WE GO FIND SOME FOOD STALLS?

A gastro-tour!

HM?

DIDJA SPOT SOMETHIN' THAT LOOKS TAST--

CAPTAIN, LOOK...

Hic!

ELMA...?

Chapter 8

!!

E-
ELMA...?

SHF...

PUSH

FWOOSH!!

SOMEONE'S ON EDGE.

Pff.

WHAT? YOU HERE TO LAUGH AT ME?

STILL GOT THE ENERGY TO BE A BITCH, HUH?

CHAK

カシャ

TH-THREE... *MILLION?*

THREE MILLION ENER...

THREE MILLION ENER IS ABOUT THREE HUNDRED MILLION YEN...

I HEARD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR CASH. HOW MUCH YOU NEED?

.....

MY SHIP'S UNDER REPAIR FOR TWO MORE WEEKS, SO NO INCOME, EITHER.

EVEN WITH ALL MY SAVINGS AND ASSETS, IT'S NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH.

TODAY.

IN TWO HOURS EXACTLY.

GIVEN MY ACCIDENT, NO ONE WILL LEND ME A PENNY...

WHEN'S THE PAYMENT DUE?

PLACE IS FULL OF PIRATES WHO GOT CAUGHT BY MERCS.

IF I CAN'T PAY UP, I'M DOOMED TO HARD LABOR ON A PRISON STATION NEAR TARMEIN III.

SO A FORMER MERC LIKE ME, WELL...

CLENCH

BUT THIS?

I-I...

WHEN I BECAME A MERC, I STEELED MYSELF, KNOWING THAT I MIGHT DIE IN SPACE.

?

FWSHT

FWOOSH

ELMA...

WE'VE SWITCHED PLACES, EH?

.....

CAPTAIN...

DAAAAAAZE...

Gasp!

LET'S HURRY BACK TO THE SHIP AND EAT!

THAT TOOK LONGER THAN EXPECTED.

SERIOUS OR NOT, I JUST PAID YOUR BILL. THREE MIL.

H-H-HOLD IT!! YOU'RE SERIOUS?!

FOR MIMI'S SAKE.

THEN WHY'D YOU--

Sigh...

Only 300K left.

MY REWARD'S ALL GONE, JUST LIKE THAT. THE WALLET'S FEELIN' AWFUL SLIM NOW...

I DON'T WANT HER TO BE SAD.

AND THOUGH YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO THAT MESS...

AND ABOVE ALL ELSE...

YOU HELPED ME SO MUCH, SO I COULDN'T LEAVE YOU HANGING.

I DID IT BECAUSE I WANT YOU.

GOES WITHOUT SAYIN' THAT I GOT MY OWN INTERESTS AT HEART.

I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I WAS AN ALTRUIST.

WITH MY MEMORIES ON THE FRITZ AND MIMI STILL A NEWBIE, WE NEED A VETERAN.

AND A COPILOT LIKE YOU IS INVALUABLE WHEN I GET INTO SCRAPS.

YOU MIGHT BE CLUMSY, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT FIVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A MERC.

TO BE BLUNT, I WANT YOU ON MY CREW.

UHH?

SO? I THINK THOSE ARE SOME PRETTY DECENT CONDITIONS...

OF COURSE, YOU'LL BE ON THE PAYROLL.

AND OVER TIME YOU CAN PAY ME BACK.

Interest-free too!

YOU LISTENIN'?

HWHA?! I, UMM...

ELMA?

Y- YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED WITH JUST ONE?!

FEELS LIKE WE'RE HAVING DIFFERENT CONVER-SATIONS...

?

BUT YOU'VE ALREADY GOT MIMI...

WHAT?

SO? THE MORE THE MERRIER.

Krishna's a big ship.

W-WELL THEN. SO THAT'S HOW YOU SEE ME?

GREAT. WELCOME ABOARD.

I'M OUT OF OPTIONS. I'LL JOIN YOUR CREW.

W-WELL, FINE THEN.

TWITCH

I'LL EXPECT YOU TO PERFORM YOUR *DUTIES* IN FULL.

SAY WHAT? I'M GONNA WORK YOU TO THE BONE.

?

JUST BE GENTLE WITH ME...

.....

REPARATIONS?

HOLD ON A MOMENT.

THERE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE *CRIMINAL* CHARGES.

YES. THE DEADLINE FOR THAT MERCENARY INCIDENT WAS TODAY.

HERE WE ARE.

WAIT...

ERM...

bip

bip

AH. THAT SIGNATURE.

CAPTAIN BARITON IN ACCOUNTING.

A ONE-WEEK DEADLINE FOR THAT KIND OF MONEY?!

WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING SO...

THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF PEOPLE IN THE FLEET WHO HATE MERCENARIES.

THAT DAMN SWINE AND HIS SCHEMING...

THERE ARE RUMORS CIRCULATING AMONG THE MERCS.

THEY SAY IF YOU SLIP UP DURING A FLEET OPERATION, YOU GET THROWN IN PRISON, WHICH DOESN'T MAKE MY LIFE ANY EASIER.

AND OF COURSE, THEY HOLD ME IN DISDAIN SINCE I INCLUDE MERCS IN OUR OPERATIONS.

I WANT THAT SWINE GONE.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

FWSH

YES, MA'AM!

SO, HE WANTS TO SABOTAGE ME?

YOUR ORDERS, MA'AM?

Tch!

creak

PERHAPS A CHANGE OF PROFESSIONS IS WORTH CONSIDERING.

.....

SHE GATHERED QUITE THE SUM IN A WEEK.

MERCE-NARIES CAN DO WELL FOR THEM-SELVES.

WHY...

WHY...

IS A MERCENARY LIVING IN SUCH LUXURY?!!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

AND ENDED UP WITH A FEW OTHER UPGRADES.

WE WENT TO BUY A NEW ALITO-COOKER...

WELL...

!!

FORGET ABOUT THAT. GO TAKE A SHOWER ALREADY.

GO WASH OFF ALL THAT STRESS AND DIRT.

You stink of booze, too.

A SH- SHOWER ...?

YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ON THE STREETS FOR A WEEK, RIGHT?

HEY.

FOOD'LL BE READY BY THE TIME YOU'RE DONE...

EEK?!

LOOM

YOU GOOD? GOT A FEVER OR SOMETHIN'?

!!!

CAPTAIN.

I-I-I-
I'M
FINE!!

SERIOUSLY,
ARE YOU
OKAY?

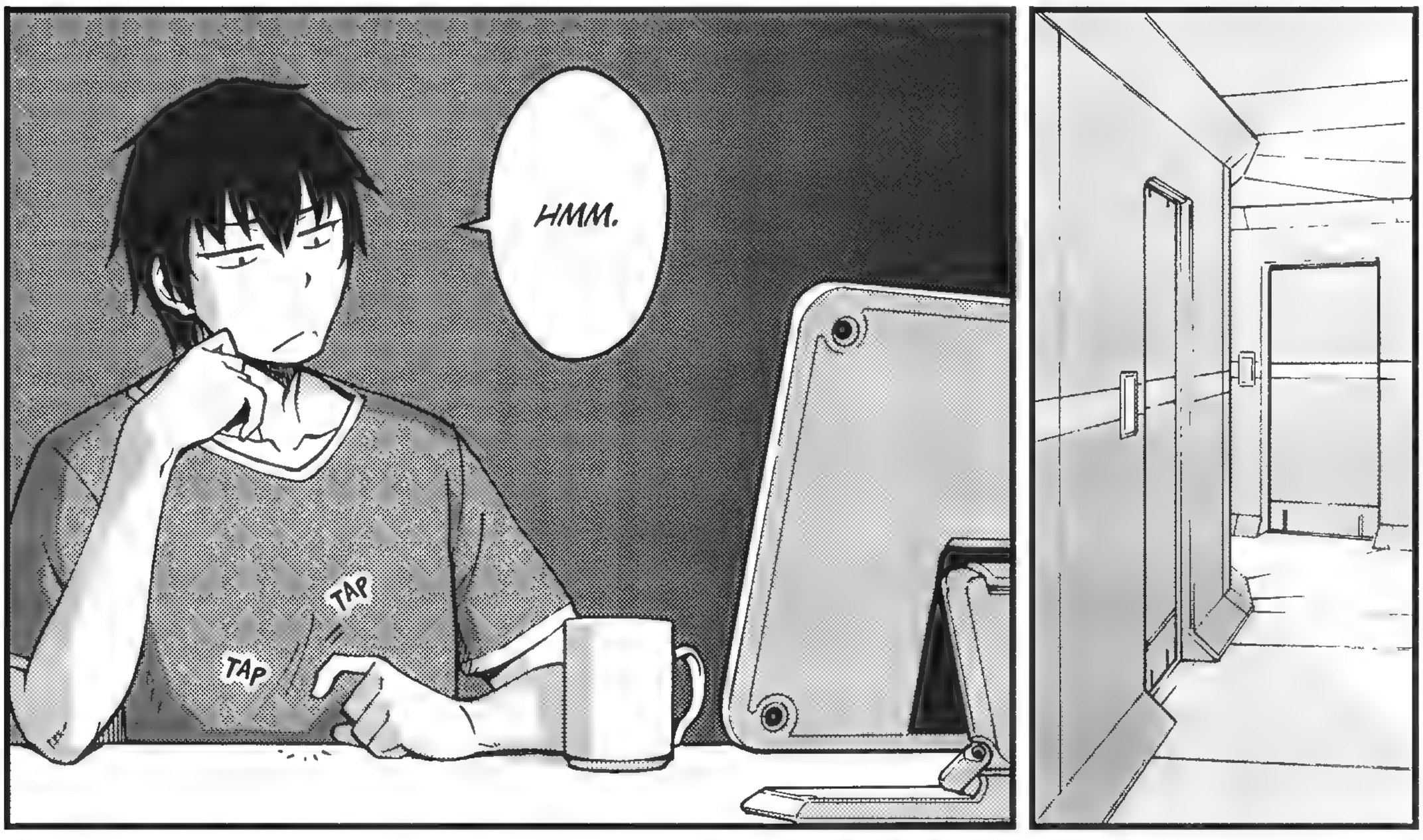
I'LL
GO
HELP
HER.

SHE
PROBABLY
WON'T KNOW
HOW TO
USE THE
SHOWER...

I'll
leave
you
to it.

HUH?
SURE,
SOUNDS
GOOD.

.....?


HMM.
TAP
TAP

I WANT TO ALWAYS HAVE AT LEAST A MILLION ENER SET ASIDE FOR EMERGENCIES.
GIVEN RECENT EVENTS, MY SAVINGS AREN'T LOOKING TOO HEALTHY.

THE PAY IS FAIR, BUT THEY'RE MORE MEANT FOR MERCENARY CONVOYS.

THE QUESTION IS HOW BEST TO EARN IT.

MOST JOBS ARE TRANSPORT MISSIONS ACROSS DANGEROUS AREAS.

THAT LEAVES BOUNTY HUNTING.

NOT FOR KRISHNA, WHICH DOESN'T HAVE THE BIGGEST HOLD.

INDEPENDENT ONES, SKILLED AND WELL EQUIPPED.

THERE'S PLENTY OF SMALLER GROUPS ALL OVER.

WE MIGHT'VE DESTROYED A PIRATE BASE, BUT THE SYSTEM ISN'T FREE OF THEM.

THEY KNOW THAT THE FLEET IS GOING TO GET SLOPPY AFTER ITS SUCCESS.

AND THEY'LL KICK IT INTO HIGH GEAR.

HUNTING FOR CIVILIAN MINING SHIPS LOADED WITH VALUABLE ORE.

I BET THE PIRATES WILL BE GUNNING FOR THE ASTEROID BELT...

PSSHT

...

AND THE FLEET'S DEFENSE IS PROBABLY THIN HERE...

HMM, SO THERE'S HEAVY CIVILIAN TRAFFIC HERE...

OKAY! LET'S FIND THE MOST LIKELY TARGETS.

?

?

Hunh, déjà vu.

HEY, AT LEAST KNOCK BEFORE...

WHAT'S UP?

SOME-THING WRONG?

I DON'T THINK THE FOOD'S READY JUST YET, SO...

POMF

FWOOSH

Hey?

?

?

--WANT WITH ME.

?

.....

GRAB

I SAID, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH ME!!

JEEZ!

AND YOU PAID THREE MILLION ENER FOR IT!!

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT SAID YOU "WANTED" ME!!

JOLT

THE HELL?!

.....

OH, THAT'S WHY SHE'S BEEN SO WEIRD...

THIS WAS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER, RIGHT?!!

WHAAAT ...?

LISTEN...

SHIVER

B-BUT THAT MEANS I...

A MISUNDER-STANDING ...?

SHIVER

I SLEPT WITH YOU FOR NO REASON?!

FWISH

エ"

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN, HORNDOG!!

WH... 'SCUSE YOU. I DON'T SLEEP WITH JUST ANYONE, Y'KNOW!

Yeowch!!

PIIIIINCH!

NO REASON?

YOU SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF A SEC--

JOLT

HWHA?!

YOU THINK I'D SLEEP WITH A GIRL I DIDN'T LIKE?

THREE MILLION ENER IS A HEFTY PRICE FOR SOME "SELF-INTEREST."

HOW 'BOUT YOU?

.....

WHAT I MEAN IS...

YOU MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.

THEN WE'RE GOOD, YEAH?

PAT

?

I'LL GET BREAKFAST READY NOW.

THANKS, APPRECIATE IT.

GOOD MORNING!

UH-HUH...

HAVING HER ABOARD IS REASSURING.

THANK GOODNESS WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE ELMA.

YUP.

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE *HER* HERE...

WITH HER HERE...

?

?

SHFFF...

.....

WHOOSH!

EEK!!

HM?

WHY THE SHOWER?!

AH... ♡

WHERE ARE...?

CAP-TAIN?

WAI--!

HUH?

PSSHT

AFTER LAST NIGHT...

Mornin'!

YA GOT SOME REAL NERVE.

HOW 'BOUT YOU, MIMI?

GRAR

WHAT? YOU HATE MIMI NOW?

AS IF! NEVER!

THE CREW'S GOTTA GET ALONG!

YEAH, I'M SURE THAT SUITS *YOU.*

SEE? EVERYONE'S FRIENDS! EVERYONE'S HAPPY!

OF COURSE I LIKE ELMA!

Wha?!

I WORRY ABOUT OUR FUTURE...

MEANWHILE, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GRAKKAN EMPIRE AND THE BELBELLUM FEDERATION ARE DETERIO-RATING.

THERE'S NOT MUCH POINT IN STICKING AROUND.

AFTER THE FALL OF THE PIRATE BASE, THEIR SYSTEM-WIDE NUMBERS HAVE DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

AND IF A WAR REALLY DOES BREAK OUT...

WE'RE NOT OBLIGATED TO JOIN; WE CAN JUST HOP TO ANOTHER SYSTEM.

THE PIRATES LEFT ARE SKILLED LONERS, MEANING BIG BOUNTIES.

SO WE'RE STICKING AROUND A BIT LONGER TO CASH IN.

AND...

Chapter 9

CHEEEEERS!

WHOOSH

GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP

ANOTHER GREAT HAUL TODAY!!

.....

Ahhhh!

=

I don't drink alcohol.

I think you need another drink.

YOU'RE JUST OVERLY EXCITED.

OI, YOU GOT THAT MONEY YOU WANTED, WHY AREN'T YOU EXCITED?

TEA

WITH THE EMPIRE'S LAX SECURITY, THERE'S BEEN A SPIKE IN PIRATE NUMBERS THERE.

HOW? THE PIRATES WHO HUNT MINING SHIPS IN THE ASTEROID BELT.

WE HIT OUR EARNING GOAL SURPRIS-INGLY FAST.

BOOM

BECAME THE HUNTED.

TYOOM

WE LAY IN WAIT UNTIL THE HUNTERS...

I EXPECTED A CHALLENGE, BUT THEY WERE JUST PIRATES.

PIECE OF CAKE FOR KRISHNA.

WE MANAGED TO RAKE IN TWO MILLION ENER IN A WEEK.

HEY! YOU LISTENIN'?

HUH? WHAZ-ZAT?

LIKE I WAS SAYING, WE SHOULD GO SHOPPING TOMORROW.

SHOPPING?

GOTTA TAKE A BREAK AT SOME POINT!

BE-SIDES...

WE'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT PIRATE-HUNTING FOR A WEEK!

THAT'S TRUE.

MIMI'S GETTING PAID TOO, AND IT'S NOT FAIR IF SHE HAS NO CHANCE TO SPEND.

ALL I DO IS SIT AROUND, SO...

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE A SMALLER SHARE.

UMM, ABOUT THAT...

.....

IT'S A LOT FOR A TEENAGE GIRL.

SURE, BUT WITH THE REWARDS AS BIG AS THEY ARE...

With market prices as they are...

A SMALLER SHARE? MIMI, YOU'RE ONLY GETTING 0.5% OF THE REWARD MONEY AS IS.

-She got 17,100 Ener.

HMM...

BUT HER LIFE IS ON THE LINE, TOO.

IT'S TRUE THAT SHE'S STILL LEARNING...

EXACTLY! YOU DESERVE IT, MIMI.

I THINK IT'S A FAIR AMOUNT.

WH-- TAKING CARE...

YOU'RE GETTING PAID FOR TAKING CARE OF HIS NEEDS TOO, Y'KNOW?

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT...

I'M NOT FORCING ANYONE TO DO ANYTHING.

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

YOU JERK!!

WHOOSH

CAPTAIN !!

FWOOSH

GOTCHA...

G...

I LOVE YOU, CAPTAIN HIRO.

I...

I LOVE YOU.

WITH ALL MY HEART.

TRULY...

I'M THANKFUL YOU SAVED ME.

BUT DO YOU THINK I'D HANG AROUND JUST OUT OF GRATITUDE? IDIOT.

W-WELL, I...

. . . . . .
?!
C-CAPTAIN ...?
H-HEY...

HUH?

WHY'RE YOU CRYING?

.....

FWSH

I-IT'S NOTHING...

THAT YOU TWO HAVE BEEN FORCING YOURSELVES OUT OF A SENSE OF OBLIGATION.

SORRY, I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN WORRIED...

sniffle ...

IT'S BEEN ON MY MIND A LOT...

SHEEF...

POMF

?

NOD

NOD

GUESS WE'LL NEED TO *POUND* IT INTO THAT THICK SKULL OF YOURS.

WHADDYA MEAN?

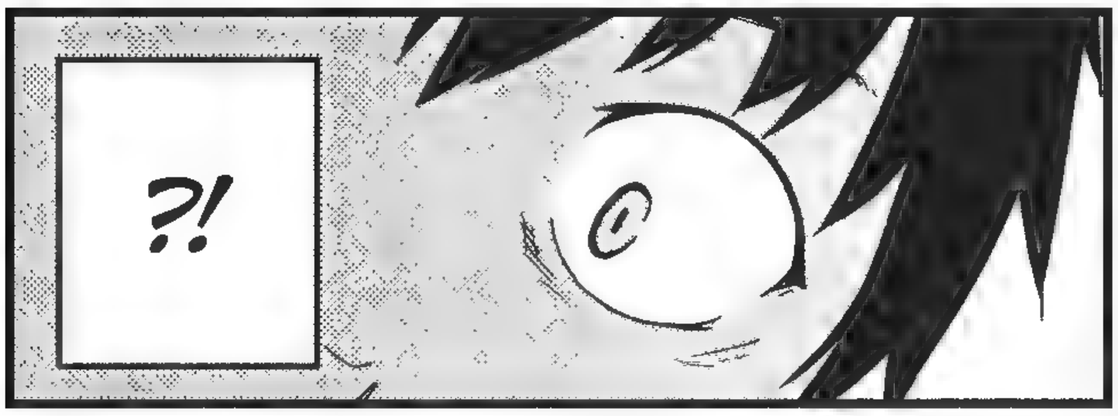
I-I'LL DO MY BEST!!

SLIDE...

I MEAN... SHOWING YOU EXACTLY HOW WE FEEL.

Third Division - Commercial District

A Delicacy


?!

DRINK

GRAB
Coke

WAS RIGHT HERE THE WHOLE TIME!

CHUG!

THE TRUE END POINT OF MY JOURNEY...

kssht

GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!

IT TASTES LIKE COLA, BUT LACKS EFFERVES-CENCE.

NON-CARBONATED COLA? HOW DARE THEY DECEIVE ME...

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN...

HOW MANY OF THESE DO YOU HAVE?

PARDON? ERR, BEYOND WHAT YOU SEE HERE, I BELIEVE THERE ARE SEVEN CASES IN THE BACK...

I'LL BUY THE LOT.

ALTHOUGH IT'S FLAT, THE FLAVOR IS PRECIOUS TO ME...

S-SIR, EXCUSE ME?! PLEASE DON'T OPEN UNPUR-CHASED MERCHA--

WHAT'S WEIRD?

WEIRD IS RIGHT.

THAT'S WEIRD.

THEY'RE BELBELLUM WARSHIPS.

WHAT?! ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?!

AREN'T THOSE MINING SHIPS?

NO, I THINK...

BIP BIP

THEY'VE SPOTTED US.

HUH?

OH!

THEY'RE DISGUISED AS CIVVY MINING SHIPS.

BUT THEIR MOVEMENTS ARE WAY TOO PRECISE FOR THAT.

HUH?

PREPARE TO INTERCEPT.

AYE.

I BET THEY THINK WE'LL BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD.

NOT ON MY WATCH!!

BIP

BIP

WITH THOSE FLIGHT PATHS, THEY'RE LOOKING TO ELIMINATE WITNESSES.

TALK ABOUT SECRE-TIVE...

WHOOMPH!

WE'RE GOIN' IN!!

GLINT

VWOOOOOOOSH

WHAM!

THOOM!

TYOOM

GA-CHUNK

GRAK

GA-CHUNK

GA-THUNK

CRAK

BLEWN!!

PTSHEW

TSEW

TYOOM

DIZZRRR

BUT HOW LONG CAN YA LAST?

'COURSE ONE SHOT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH FOR A MILITARY SHIP.

BWSHT

BWSHT

BUT...

WHOOO

YEAH, I'D BE RETREATING AS WELL.

LOOKS LIKE THEIR SHIELD BATTERIES ARE DEPLETED.

GA-
CHUNK

PSHT

TSHT

WOOSH

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BLAM

BOOM

TYOOM

THOSE WERE HUGE EXPLOSIONS. I HOPE THE BLACK BOXES AND DATA CACHES SURVIVED.

AND BE-SIDES...

I'VE GOT A CONNECTION IN THE FLEET.

IS THAT DATA IMPORTANT?

THE IMPERIAL FLEET WILL PAY BIG TIME FOR MILITARY DATA!

HA HA HA, NO WAY! ALL WE'RE GONNA DO IS SELL IT TO 'EM.

BETTER NOT END UP BEING TROUBLE.

A CONNECTION, HUH?

SO. HOW'D WE GO FROM JUST SELLING THE DATA...

TO JOINING A WAR BETWEEN THE EMPIRE AND THE FEDERATION?

SORRY...

E-ELMA, LET'S LEAVE IT THERE, OKAY?

YEAH, I'M PRETTY EMBAR-RASSED...

WHAT KINDA MERC CAN'T NEGOTIATE?

DAMN IT... HOW'D YOU GET SUCKED IN SO EASILY?

I STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB WITH THE GIRLS AT MY SIDE.

Last dude needs to get a life.

JUST EXPLODE... INTO A BILLION PIECES...

MUTTER MUTTER

HEY, ISN'T THAT ELMA THE SILVER-RANKER?

WHY'S SHE WITH HIM?

HE'S GOT *TWO* CUTIES WITH HIM?!

GETTA LOADA THIS GUY.

MAN...

OH, LOOK, IT'S THE ONE WHO DUPED YOU.

ATTENTION!!

I WILL NOW BEGIN THE BRIEFING FOR THE TARMEIN STAR SYSTEM DEFENSE PLAN.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME.

HAVE 8 BATTLESHIPS, 24 HEAVY CRUISERS, 32 LIGHT CRUISERS, 64 DESTROYERS, AND 128 CORVETTES.

BASED ON THE DATA WE CAPTURED, THE FEDERATION FORCES...

SO WE HAVE TO SURVIVE AT LEAST ONE DAY WITH OUR CURRENT FORCES.

THEIR FIREPOWER EASILY EXCEEDS THAT OF THE TARMEIN GARRISON.

AND REINFORCE-MENTS WILL ARRIVE THE DAY AFTER THE ENEMY DOES.

WITH SERENA LEADING, THE MERCENARIES WILL HIDE IN THE ASTEROID BELT AND ENGAGE IN GUERILLA TACTICS WHEN THE INVADING FORCES PASS THROUGH.

THE GOAL IS TO SLOW THE SPEED OF THEIR INVASION.

CRUISERS AND BATTLESHIPS HAVE HIGH-POWERED SHIELDS, WHILE MERCS ARE ONLY EQUIPPED TO FIGHT PIRATES. WE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE.

WE MERCS ARE TARGETING SHIPS OF DESTROYER-CLASS AND LOWER.

I AM OPEN TO ANYTHING; GALACTIC RIM'S THE LIMIT.

IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS, BUT THE UPPER HAND IS DECIDEDLY THEIRS.

AS SUCH, IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO SHARE THEM.

I'LL MIMIC THE SIGNATURE OF A SHIP COMING OUT OF HYPERSPACE AS COVER TO BLEND IN.

THEN I'LL PENETRATE THEIR RANKS, DESTROY THEIR FLAGSHIP...

THIS IS GOING TO SOUND STRANGE, BUT...

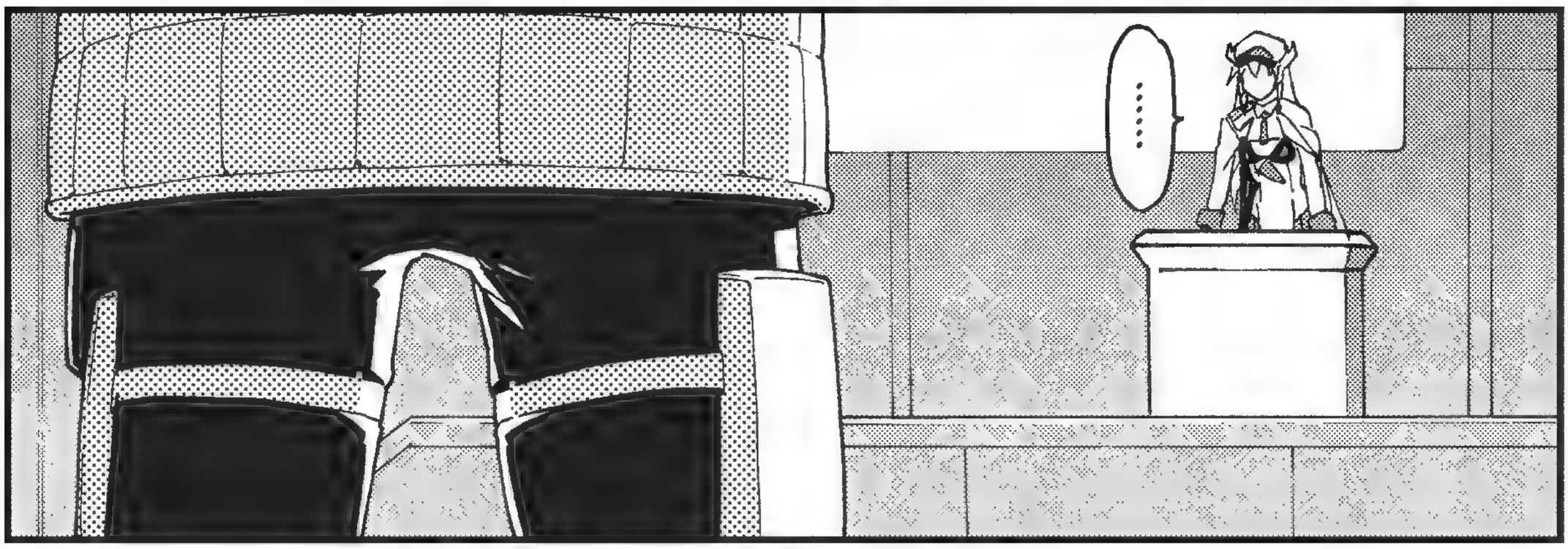
YES...?

MY IDEA ONLY INVOLVES *KRISHNA.*

CLENCH

AND WITHDRAW!

CHATTER
CHATTER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ARE YOU INSANE?

AND IF I FAIL, THAT'S JUST ONE IDIOT DEAD, AND YOUR PLANS ARE MOSTLY UNAFFECTED.

I'LL PULL IT OFF.

WITHOUT THEIR FLAG, THEY'LL BREAK FORMATION, AND THE INVASION WILL SLOW TO A CRAWL.

OF COURSE.

BUT THOSE DETAILS ARE TRADE SECRETS.

I PRESUME THERE IS MORE TO THIS PLAN THAN YOU'RE TELLING ME?

SHOULD BE OF NO CONCERN TO THE EMPIRE, RIGHT?

THANK YOU.

ALL RIGHT. PERMISSION GRANTED.

THERE-FORE...

YOU WILL BE HANDSOMELY REWARDED.

YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST RETURN.

DO YOU HAVE A HEAD INJURY?!

YOU MORON! IMBECILE!!

LOOK, I THOUGHT IT THROUGH BEFORE SUGGESTING IT.

CALM DOWN? CALM DOWN?!!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO STAY CALM AFTER SOME COLOSSAL IDIOT SIGNED US UP FOR A SUICIDE MISSION?!!

OKAY, JUST CALM DOWN...

BEEP

BEEP

?

?

UH-HUH...

I'VE GOT A PLAN.

?!

.....

VSSSHHT

A SINGING CRYSTAL...?

A SINGING CRYSTAL...

Chapter 10

ぬぬぬぬぬぬ。

TOSS

NOW WE TAKE THIS...

TOSS

DON'T JUST THROW IT AROUND!!

RUSTLE

THUNK

WHY THE HELL DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE?!

AND THERE WE GO.

KRIIITCH

A little there...

KRIIITCH

A little here...

KRIIITCH

WHEW...

THERE WE GO, WHAT?!

Owww...

ELMA! VIOLENCE IS BAD...

WHACK!

ONE WRONG MOVE, AND IT'LL BREAK OPEN AND SUMMON A TON OF CRYSTAL BEINGS!

MIMI! SINGING CRYSTALS ARE CLASS ONE PROHIBITED ITEMS!!

SO? WHAT'S THE PLAN, SMART GUY?

IT'S SIMPLE, IN THEORY.

You really did hit your head...

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN GOING INTO BATTLE WITH THAT ABOARD...

AND WHEN THEY WARP OUT, WE'LL LEAVE FTL AT THE SAME TIME.

I SEE.

Just circle the area...

WE'LL HANG OUT IN FTL AROUND WHERE THE ENEMY'S EXPECTED TO LEAVE HYPERSPACE.

THEN WE'LL USE THERMAL STEALTH TO MIX AND SNEAK UP ON THE FLAGSHIP.

YOU'LL USE THAT TO BLEND IN WITH 'EM.

SINCE THE SIGNATURE FROM LEAVING FTL IS SIMILAR TO A WARP-OUT...

CLUNK

ONCE WE'RE IN RANGE, WE FIRE THIS REACTIVE ANTI-SHIP TORPEDO.

MEANT FOR USE AGAINST BATTLESHIPS AND THEIR HIGH-POWER SHIELDS.

THERE'S A DEVICE IN THE WARHEAD THAT ENABLES IT TO PENETRATE SHIELDS.

WOW, THAT'S AMAZING...

REACTIVE ANTI-WHA...?

REACTIVE ANTI-SHIP TORPEDO.

DUN-DUNN

F-FIVE ...?!

YOU GOTTA HAVE A GOOD REASON TO USE 'EM.

'CUZ AT FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND ENER A POP, THEY AIN'T COMMON.

Huh...?

BUT WHY HAVEN'T I SEEN ANYONE USING THEM?

THE CRYSTAL BEINGS ARE GONNA DO A SERIOUS NUMBER ON 'EM.

THAT'LL BE OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE.

WITH THEIR FLAGSHIP DESTROYED AND THE CHAIN OF COMMAND IN CHAOS...

SOUNDS SUPER RECKLESS.

SOUNDS GREAT, RIGHT?

IF THERE'S ANYONE THAT CAN PULL IT OFF, IT'S YOU WITH THIS SHIP.

WHAAAA-AAAAT?

BUT...

IN FUTURE, IF YOU GOT SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT ABOARD, YOU GOTTA TELL US!!

GRAH!

THAT SAID...

HEE HEE!

GIGGLE

GIGGLE

ARE WE CLEAR?

Y-YES, MA'AM.

MUMBLE...

A VETERAN THAT DIDN'T KNOW HOW HER OWN SHIP WORKED...

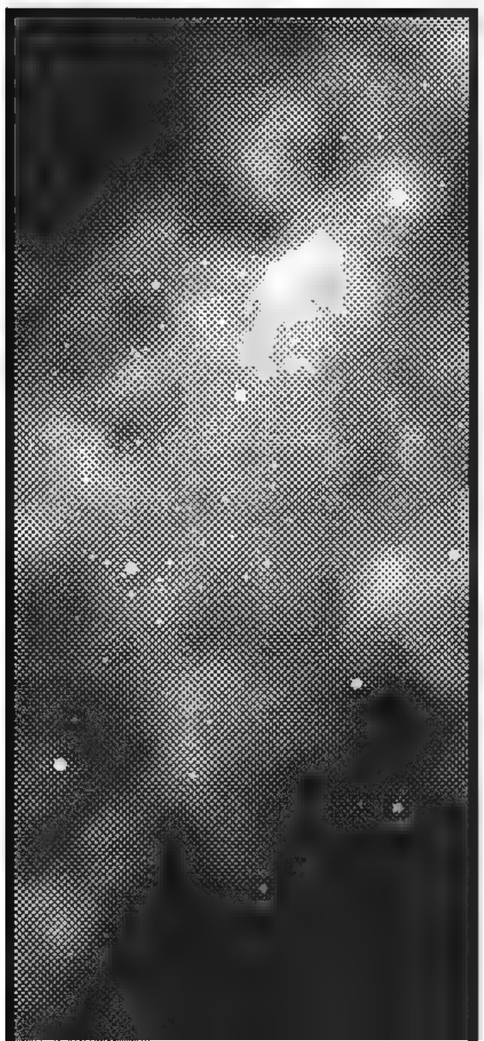
OF COURSE! I'M HIS ELDER *AND* A VETERAN MERC!

Heh!

YOU'RE LIKE HIS OLDER SISTER!

NO, MA'AM. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

YOU SAY SOME-THING?



OKAY, BEGIN DECELERATION.

THE RADAR'S PICKING UP MULTIPLE WARP-OUT SIGNALS!!

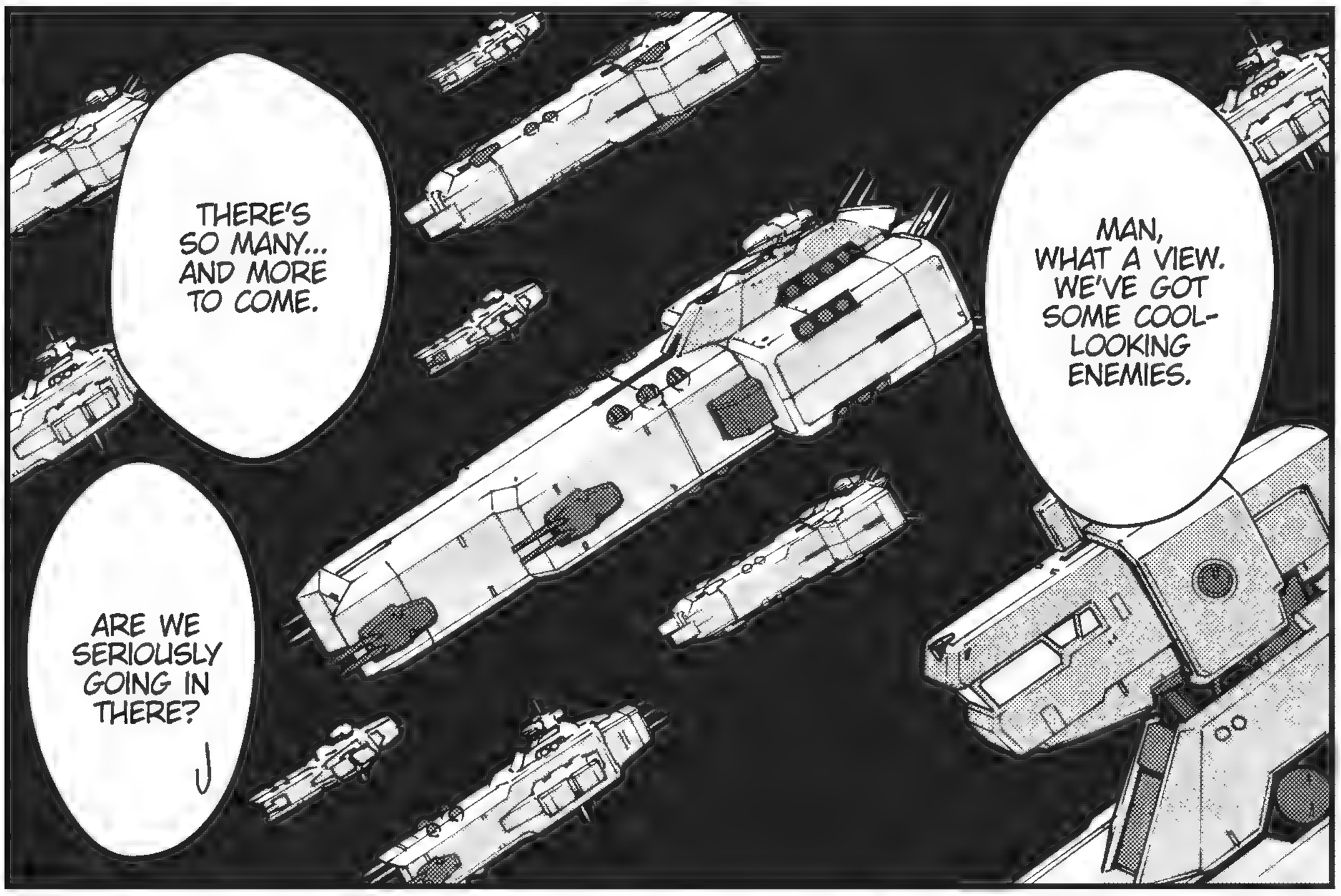
ENTERING THERMAL STEALTH MODE.

IT'S ALL UP TO INERTIA NOW.

CUTTING GENERATOR OUTPUT, STARTING EMERGENCY COOLING PROCEDURE.

VWOOOOON!!

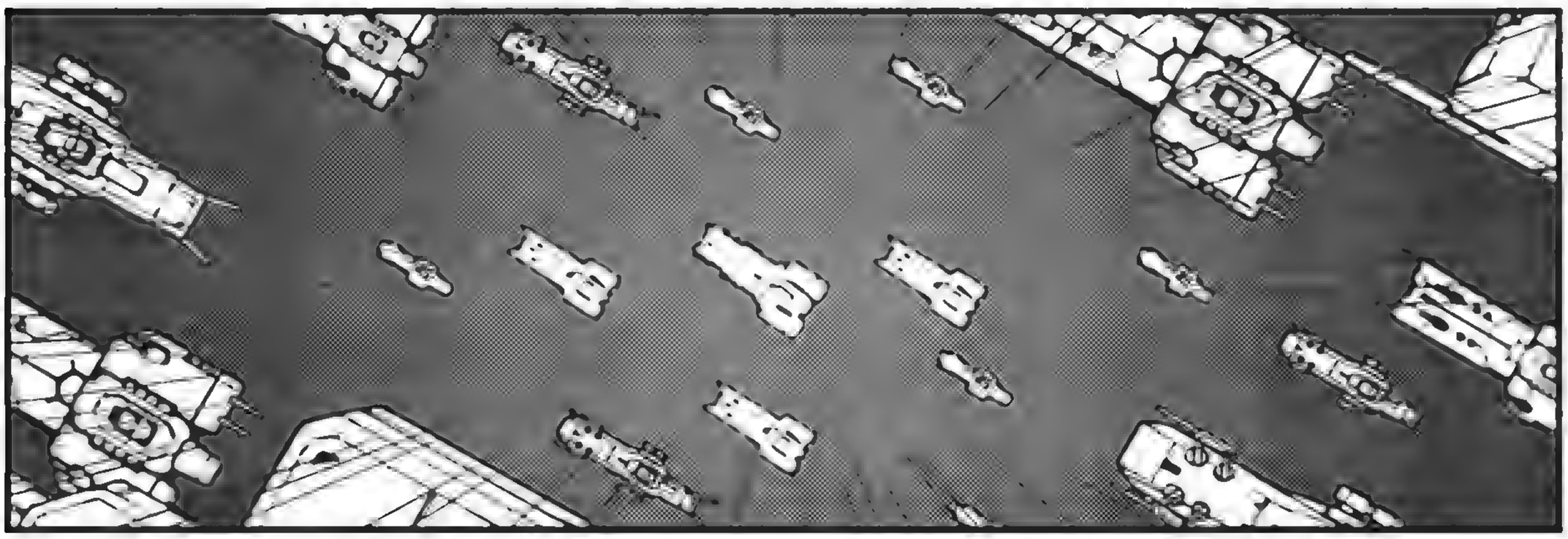
ドドド
ドドド

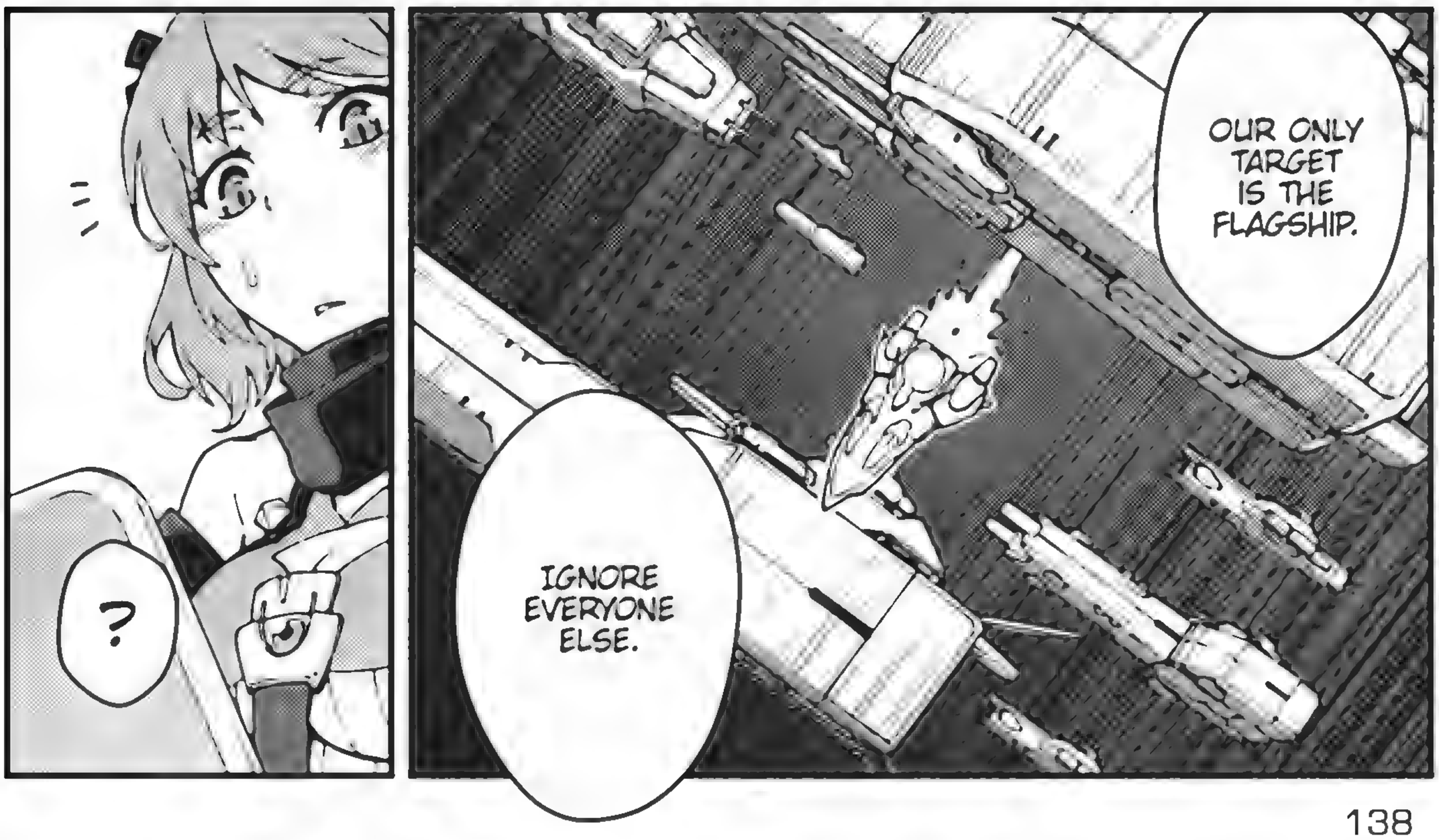

THERE'S SO MANY... AND MORE TO COME.
MAN, WHAT A VIEW. WE'VE GOT SOME COOL-LOOKING ENEMIES.
ARE WE SERIOUSLY GOING IN THERE?

REBOOT THE COOLING EQUIPMENT.
SET GENERATOR OUTPUT TO MAX.
CLENCH

ALL RIGHT.
NO ADDITIONAL WARP-OUT SIGNALS DETECTED.
THE FEDERATION FLEET IS NOW MOVING.

WOOOSH
WE'RE GOIN' IN!!




?
OUR ONLY TARGET IS THE FLAGSHIP.
IGNORE EVERYONE ELSE.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.

AHA, FINALLY NOTICED US, HUH?

Vr.r.r.r.n

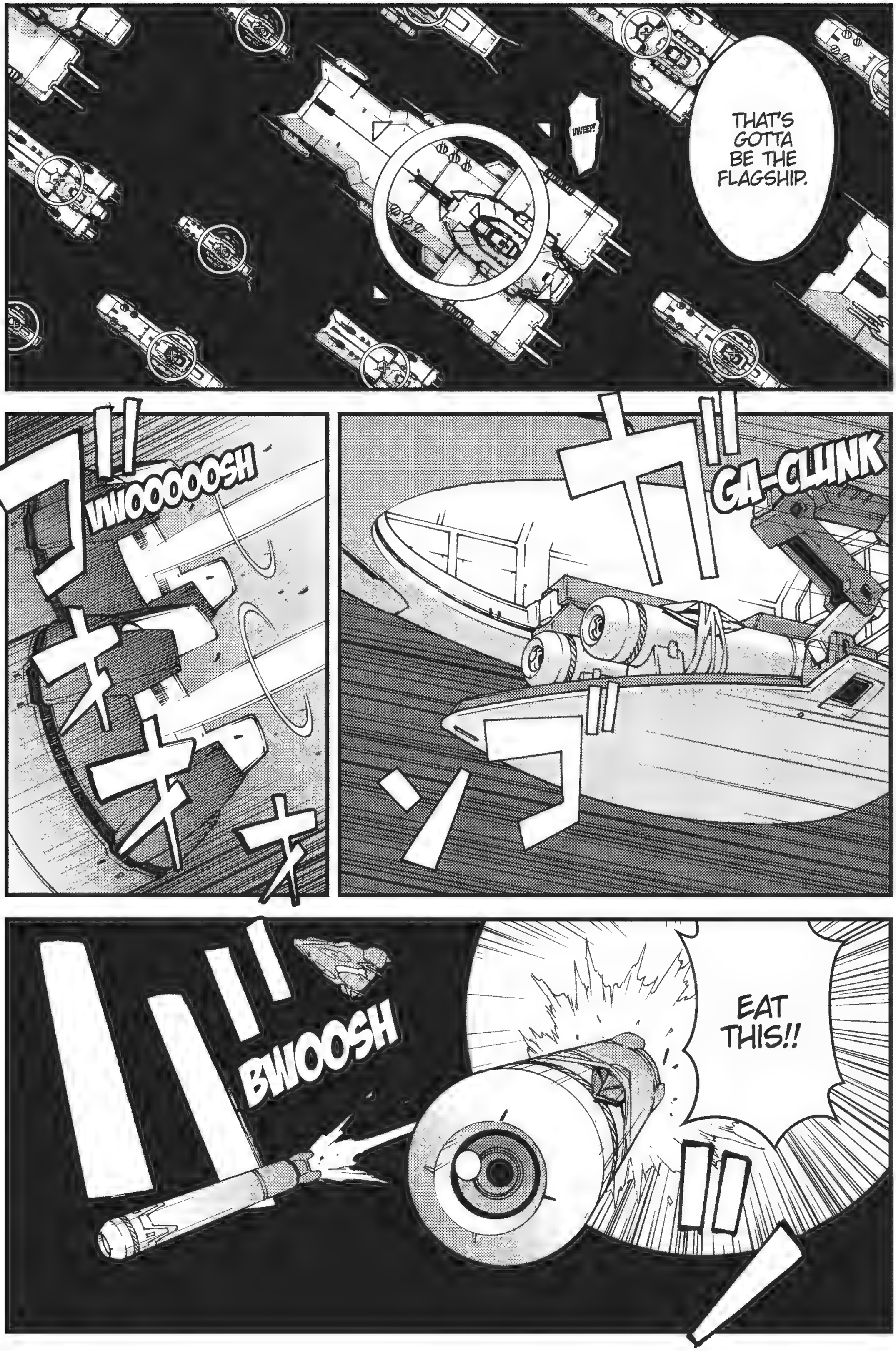
CAPTAIN! THE ENEMY TURRETS ARE FOCUSING ON US!

THEY WON'T DARE FIRE UPON US!!

VWOOOOOOOOSH

IN CLOSE QUARTERS LIKE THIS, THEY CAN'T RISK FRIENDLY FIRE!

OHO?


THAT'S GOTTA BE THE FLAGSHIP.
UWEEP!
ZI-I-I-I

BWEEEEEEEEEN
bzzzzzRRRRRT...

BAAAAAAM
BWOOM!
CRAK

KABOOM!

WHAT'RE YOU CELEBRATING FOR?! WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!

HELL YEAH! DAVID BEATS GOLIATH!!

GREEEEE...

CRAK

CRIK

BUST

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

GYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHH

HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE IN A VACUUM?

.....

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

One ship?! Forget about friendly fire, just take that ship out!! Now!!

Wait a second!!

Tiger Eye has been destroyed!!

A mercenary ship has infiltrated the ranks!!

What the hell **was** that?!

Status report, now!!

WOOO...

HERE THEY COME...

We're detecting multiple distortions in the space around us!!

Signatures...

VWOOO...

BWOOOOO

What?! How is that possible?!

Crystal Beings!!

Additional signa-tures!!

WHOOOOOSH

BAM

WHAM

BOOM

GA-

CHUNK-

CHUNK-

TYOOM

THOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

YOU DONE GAWKING? NOW'S OUR CHANCE!!

OH! RIGHT, RIGHT.

Even more destructive than I'd imagined.

YIKES.

.....

TIME TO MAKE SOME SERIOUS MOOLAH.

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!!

THE ENEMY'S ALL OVER THE PLACE RIGHT NOW. PERFECT CHANCE TO CRUSH 'EM!

C-CAPTAIN HIRO?

WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!!

SO...

W-WAIT!

THANKS TO THE CRYSTAL BEINGS, THERE'S NO ATTACK COMING OUR WAY.

SO, WHILE THEY'RE ALL BUSY...

GA-THUNK

BA-BOOM!

WHOOSH

AWW, JEEZ!! COME ON!!

FWSHT

LARGE-BORE LASERS, FORWARD PORT!!

CRYSTAL BEINGS ON OUR STARBOARD!!

BOB 'N' WEAVE!

WOOOOOSH

BOOM

BAM

THOOM

PRETTY EASY TO SHATTER.

WHAT MAKES THEM TERRIFY-ING...

WHAM

THEY LACK SHIELDS, FOR ONE THING.

BOOM

CRYSTAL BEINGS AREN'T THAT DIFFICULT ONE-ON-ONE.

IS HOW THEY RELENT-LESSLY HUNT DOWN ANY SIGNS OF LIFE.

DIP

BS HT

zwsht

AND THEY'RE NOT SLOWING DOWN!!

THERE'S A BUNCH OF THEM ON OUR TAIL!!

OKAY ...

?

BOOM

BAM

AHA! NOT OUR PROBLEM ANYMORE.

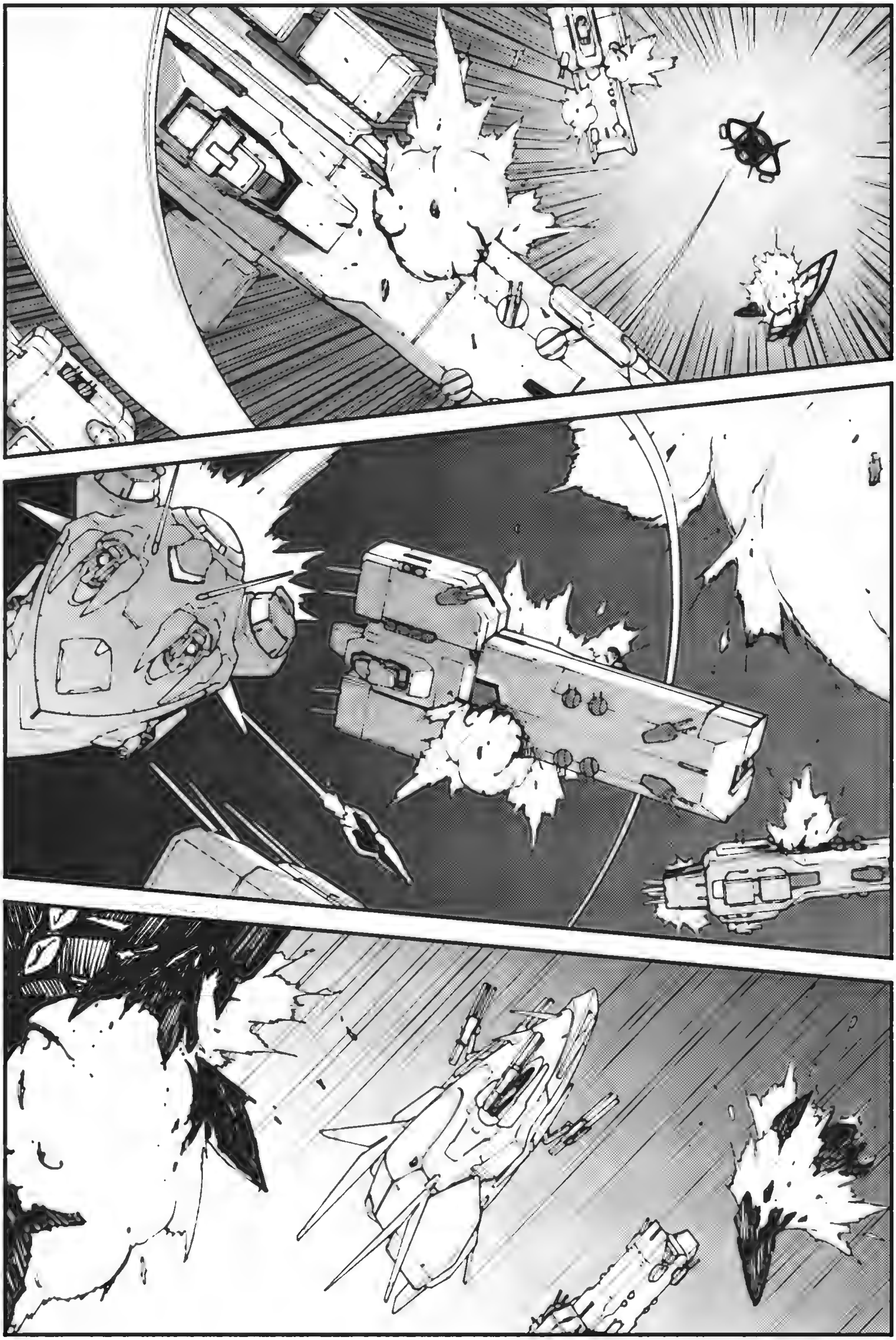
ALL THE BATTLESHIP SHIELDS ARE GOING DOWN.

THANKS TO THE BEINGS...

IT'S LITERALLY FREE MONEY!!

WHOOSH!

A SHIP THAT BIG WITH NO SHIELDS... TALK ABOUT A SITTING DUCK.



Phew...

Finally...

GUESS OUR TIME'S UP. WE'LL LEAVE IT TO 'EM. LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.

Wouldn't wanna take friendly fire.

THE IMPERIAL FLEET HAS ARRIVED IN THE BATTLE-SPACE!!

CAPTAIN HIRO!!

THE FTL DRIVE'S FULLY CHARGED.

.....

VWSHT

SORRY. DON'T HATE THE PLAYER.

MAN, OH MAN!

BEAM

THAT WAS GREAT! ♪

10,950,000 ENER...

Three battleships and four heavy cruisers...

MIMI, HOW MUCH DID WE MAKE?

ERRM, OUR TOTAL IS...

I WANT A DETACHED HOUSE WITH A YARD, ON A SAFE PLANET.

STILL NOT ENOUGH.

SERIOUSLY? YOU TRYIN' TO BUY A NEW SHIP OR WHAT?

Hmm...

SO, AFTER AMMO, FUEL, BOTH YOUR SHARES, ETC., ETC.

INCLUDING MY OTHER SAVINGS, I'VE NOW GOT 11,130,000 ENER.

WHY NOT JUST ENROLL IN THE IMPERIAL ARMY?

You were serious?

OH, RIGHT. FORGOT ABOUT THAT.

IN THAT CASE, NO, THAT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE.

JOINING THE ARMY OR BEING NOBILITY SOUNDS ANNOYING.

YEAH, KNIGHTHOOD WOULD PUT ME LEVEL WITH NOBILITY, BUT...

WITH YOUR SKILLS, AIMING FOR A KNIGHT RANK SHOULD GET YOU THERE FASTER, NO?

HARD PASS ON THE ARMY STUFF.

MONEY WILL GET ME TO MY GOAL, SO I'LL TAKE THAT PATH.

MHMM.

One week later...

AGAIN?

HOW MANY TIMES HAS SHE TRIED TO LURE YOU INTO THE ARMY NOW?

LIEUTENANT SERENA, RIGHT?

SEEMS LIKE EVERY TIME I TURN HER DOWN, THE PAY AND BENEFITS GET BETTER AND BETTER.

IT'S LIKE WATCHING A HUNTER PATIENTLY STALK THEIR PREY...

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO? SHE'LL GET HER CLAWS IN YOU AT SOME POINT.

SHE'S REAL PRETTY, BUT FRIGHTENING, TOO.

HMM...

HONESTLY, IT'S NOT A SUPER-APPEALING DEAL.

AND THE OTHER BENEFITS CAN BE BOUGHT WITH MONEY.

WORKING AS A MERC IS MORE PROFITABLE.

ALL RIGHT.

.....

LET'S JAM.

MAINTENANCE IS DONE, AND WE'RE RESUPPLIED EXCEPT FOR ANTI-SHIP TORPEDOES.

BEST GET A MOVE ON.

ARE YOU SURE?

IT'S BEST TO BE ELSEWHERE WHEN TROUBLE STARTS.

MIMI, CAN YOU DO THE TAKE-OFF REQUEST?

Y-YES, CAPTAIN!!

BWAHN

BWAHN

THE AREIN SYSTEM WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY?

THEY'RE PRETTY HIGH TECH-- LOTS OF HOSPITAL STATIONS AND BIOTECH COLONIES.

WHERE WE HEADED?

PRETTY FAR. SIX SYSTEMS AWAY.

I BET THERE'S TONS OF TASTY FOOD!!

HOW 'BOUT BOOZE?!

I HEAR THEY'RE FAMOUS FOR STUFF LIKE ARTIFICIAL MEAT AND GMO CROPS.

ALL RIGHT!

OUR DESTINATION'S SET TO THE AREIN SYSTEM.

GA-THUNK

ENGAGE!!

That last battle was quite impressive, you know.

Are you sure about this?

I AM, UNCLE.

but it seems pointless to persuade you otherwise.

FWSHT

THANK YOU, SIR!

With your abilities, you could lead any unit of your choosing...

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISH-ING...

AN INDEPENDENT UNIT THAT HUNTS PIRATES.

clik

Heh.

BZZRT

Speak with you later.

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY.

To Be Continued...

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

REBORN AS A SPACE MERCENARY

I WOKE UP PILOTING THE STRONGEST STARSHIP! Vol.2

art: SHUNICHI MATSUI story: RYUTO character design: TETSUHIRO NABESHIMA

TRANSLATION
Kristjan Rohde

LETTERING
Alexandra Gunawan

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

LOGO DESIGN
George Panella

PROOFREADER
Kurestin Armada

COPY EDITOR
Dawn Davis

EDITOR
Nick Mamatas

PREPRESS TECHNICIAN
Rhiannon Rasmussen-Silverstein

PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE
Christa Miesner

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Lissa Pattillo

MANAGING EDITOR
Julie Davis

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

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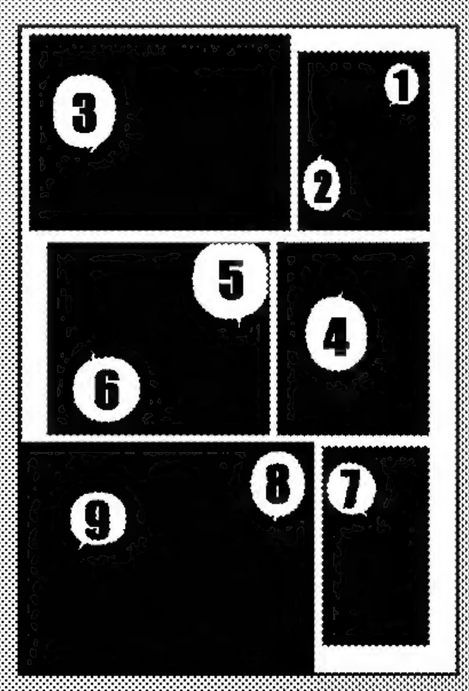
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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Another Day, Another Dol—Galactic War?!

Reborn into a universe much like his favorite game, *Stella Online*, Hiro wants nothing more than to retire planetside. To turn that dream into reality, he's been working as a space mercenary and making some serious bank.

With a fat wallet, a beautiful girl by his side, and a poor little space elf as first mate, it seems like smooth sailing ahead. That is, until he's caught up in a conflict between the Grakkan Empire and the Belbellum Federation!

Join Hiro and his crew as they push his beloved, over-powered starship to its limits in an epic galactic war!

OLDER TEEN (15+)

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